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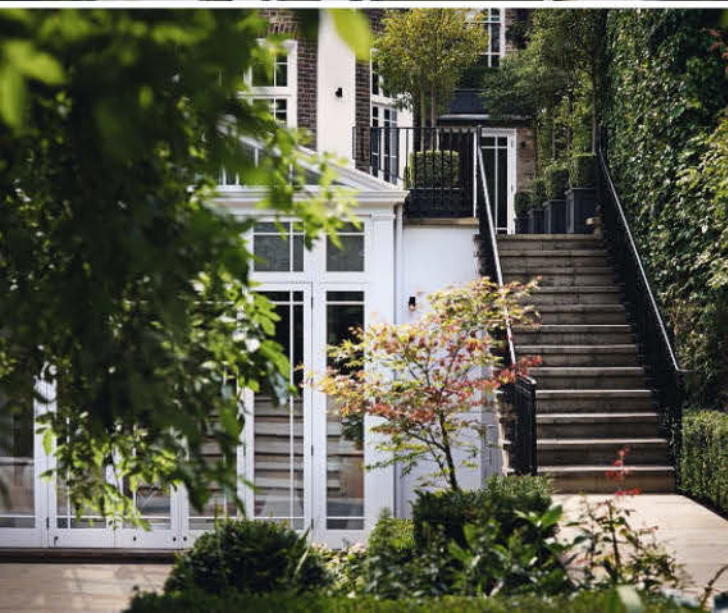
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Profession Authors, app creators,
designers and owners of the blog
A Beautiful Mess. We wear a lot of
different hats and we like it that way!

Feature Smart blogs for creative minds, p151

Likes Bold colours and trying new things

Home Southern Missouri, right in the heartland
of the US. Elsie's house is nearly 100 years old and
is decorated with a mid-century look. Emma's
house is more modern and has a rustic, cosy feel

Design hero Jonathan Adler – we love his work



Christopher Waggott

Twitter: @ChristopherWag
Profession Designer and
videographer

Feature Go online to see Chris's film
about Bisazza's new collaboration
with Designers Guild (see p55)

Home I live in Forest Hill, South London, in
a Victorian garden flat. It's the first property that
I've renovated: when I got hold of it the place had
barely been touched since the 1980s

Favourite city Vienna. My partner works there a
lot, so I get to see places that are off the tourist trail

Dream buy An Artek tea trolley by Alvar Aalto



James Wallman

Twitter: @jameswallman

Profession Cultural analyst, trend
forecaster, author, public speaker

Feature What is luxury? p63

Interiors style Less is more.
My wife and I always paint our

walls chalky white. That said, in our last home we
had some magical wallpaper that my wife
co-designed. It featured images of Leigh Bowery
Favourite design The weekend. Thank you Henry
Ford for designing our week so we'd get two days off
instead of one. Design of stuff is so 20th century.
The 21st century is all about designing our lives

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ELLE DECORATION #BEORIGINAL DISCOVER THE NEW

ELLE Decoration, as the style magazine for your home, has always encouraged you to have the courage of your interior convictions; to colour and furnish your home in your own way; in other words, to 'Be Original'. Every month we fill our magazine with as much inspiration and information as possible in order for you to have everything you need to make the best possible choices. We do the work, so you don't have to! Each issue is a carefully curated collation of different looks, feels and design directions, sometimes given an overall flavour (this month it's about Spring and our desire to embrace the great outdoors) but crucially, every piece of content is underpinned by the ELLE Decoration commitment to publishing only what we believe to be the very best and/or most interesting in any category. That way, you can be confident about the quality and provenance of anything you choose from our pages.

So, as a new season beckons and the days finally feel like they're getting longer, the time is now for fresh thinking and new ideas. Hence our #BeOriginal call to action! What does it mean? Throughout the year, we'll be putting together a very select series of events under this banner (talks, exclusive previews, readers' evenings and more), all with the objective of getting you inspired about great design and the pursuit of turning houses into homes. After all, as Edith Wharton reputedly once said, 'True originality consists not in a new manner, but in a new vision'. Let's rethink together what your home could be and #BeOriginal in its realisation.

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📌 Keep an eye on elledecoration.co.uk and our Twitter feed @ELLEDecoUK for details

Nichelle Ogundehin
Editor-in-Chief



EDITOR'S PICKS

If money were no object, then Poul Henningsen's 'PH Artichoke' light, would be top of my must-buy list, especially as it now boasts an LED light source (from £5,445; louisepoulsen.com). I also love Joined + Jointed's 'Wood III' chair by Henrik Soerig (£395; joinedandjointed.com); and this lamp/table by Cédric Ragot for Roche Bobois (£1,560; roche-bobois.com).

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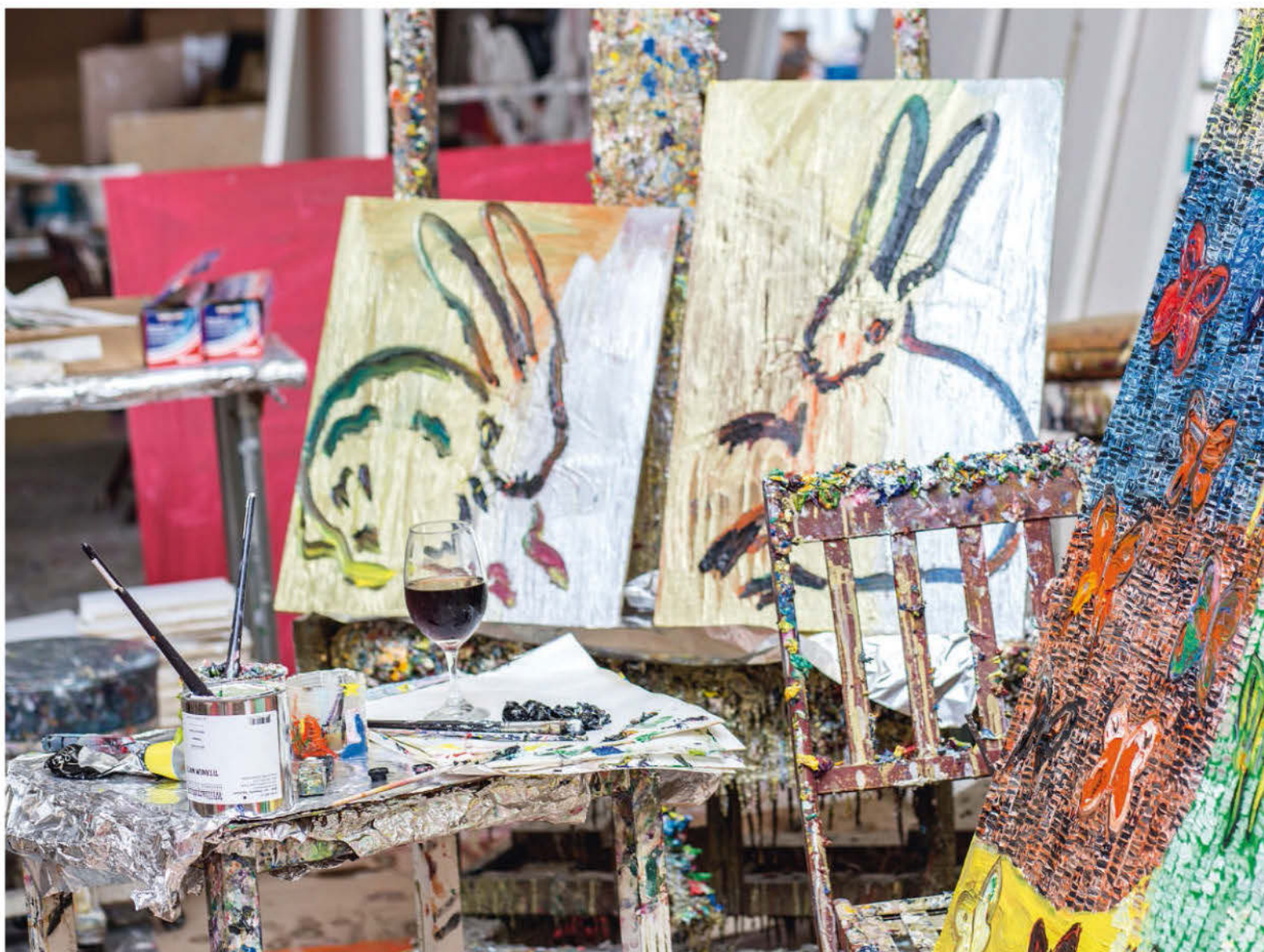
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STYLE

'BUNNIES' WALLPAPER by Manhattan-based artist Hunt Slonem is produced by Lee Jofa. The pattern features a series of Slonem's Neo-Expressionist rabbit pictures (the original canvases fetch handsome sums at auction). He has been producing a bunny image a day since the 1980s and describes this repetitive way of painting as 'a form of worship'. To find out more about Slonem's art and method, turn the page (£290 per nine-metre roll; leejofa.com).

FOR MORE OBJECTS OF DESIRE, VISIT ELLEDECORATION.CO.UK/SHOPPING



Clockwise from above Hunt Slonem at work in his colourful Manhattan studio; original rabbit paintings and one of Slonem's many exotic birds; 'Hutch' wallpaper for Lee Jofa (£250 per nine-metre roll; leejofa.com)

THRILL OF THE HUNT

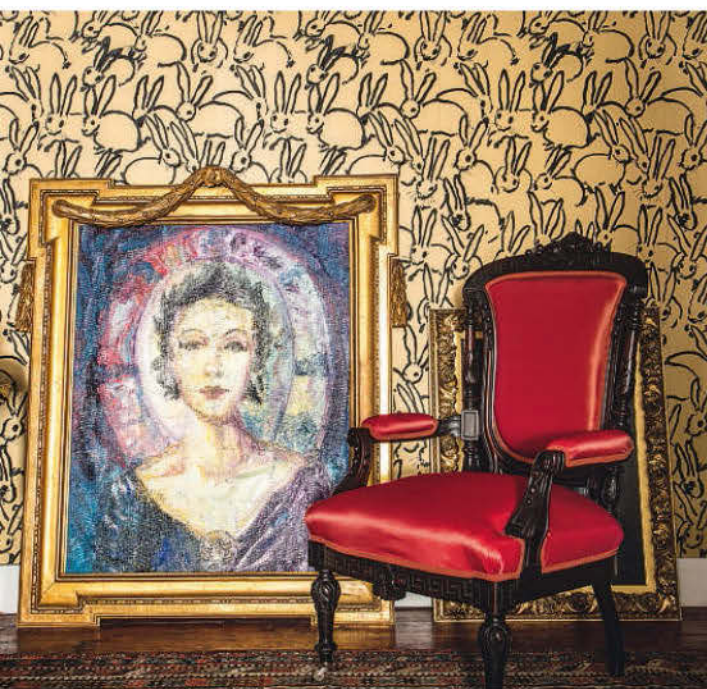
New York artist Hunt Slonem's fantastical paintings of bunnies and birds are the inspiration for his new collection with Lee Jofa

The Easter Bunny would surely find a warm welcome if he turned up on the doorstep of artist and interior decorator Hunt Slonem. Everywhere you look in his Manhattan studio, there are paintings of rabbits, butterflies and tropical birds in a childlike Neo-Expressionist style. And thanks to a collaboration with textile brand Lee Jofa, Slonem's menagerie will soon find its way into British homes on wallpapers, fabrics and rugs.

The son of a Navy officer, Slonem says his passion for colour and wildlife stems from a peripatetic childhood, spent on a series of military bases. In Hawaii he grew orchids, and in Nicaragua he chased butterflies. To this day, he needs to be surrounded by nature in his urban studio and is often to be found painting with an exotic bird perched on his shoulder; he keeps between 30 and 100 of them, housed in giant cages in his open-plan workspace.

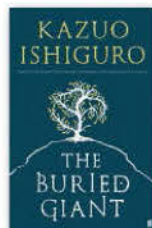
As for the bunnies, they have become his signature. Slonem has been making his 'rabbit paintings' since the 1980s, when he realised that the year of his birth, 1951, was the Chinese year of the rabbit. Now, he describes them as his 'daily warm-ups'. Every morning he paints a bunny on a small panel before pairing it with an antique frame and adding it to the 'Bunny Wall' in his studio (the inspiration for the 'Bunnies' wallpaper by Lee Jofa, see previous page). An habitué of New York's flea markets, Slonem has filled his sprawling studio with a mix of Gothic Revival furniture, antique rugs and objets d'art. Fascinated? We certainly are, which is why we'll be reading Slonem's book, *Where Art Meets Design* (Assouline, £50), to discover even more about his colourful world.

WORDS: AMY BRADFORD PICTURES: WARC TOUSIGNANT (PORTRAIT), MARCO RICCA (MAIN IMAGE)

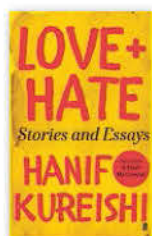


THE ESSENTIAL SPRING READING LIST

From must-read novels to the finest coffee-table tomes



The Buried Giant (Faber & Faber, £20) is Booker Prize-winning author Kazuo Ishiguro's first novel in a decade, so expectation is sky high. Having scrapped the first draft after his wife told him that it wasn't good enough, Ishiguro's final version is set in ancient Britain and covers themes of lost memories, love and war as a couple set out on a journey to find their son.



Hanif Kureishi's ***Love + Hate: Stories and Essays*** (out June 4; Faber & Faber, £14.99) is a collection of missives, all linked by those two seemingly opposite emotions. Chapters include the story of a Pakistani woman who is forging a new life in Paris, an account of Kafka's relationship with his father and an essay about the conman who stole Kureishi's life savings.



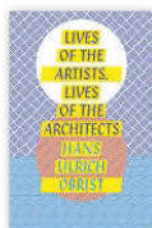
Coinciding with the French textile brand's 80th anniversary, ***Pierre Frey: Inspiring Interiors*** (Abrams, £40) showcases its fabrics, rugs, wallcoverings, upholstered furniture and home accessories in rooms created by some of today's best-known interior designers.



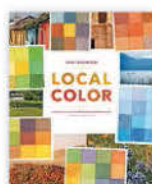
Sargent: Portraits of Artists and Friends (National Portrait Gallery, £40) is the first book devoted to the respected American painter and has been released to accompany an exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery (until May 25), which includes portraits of his many creative friends, from Claude Monet to WB Yeats.



Munari's Books (Princeton Architectural Press, £25) by art historian Giorgio Maffei is a chronological monograph examining Italian artist and graphic designer Bruno Munari's 70-year career. Newly translated critical essays are interspersed with illustrations, including the ones for his brilliant children's books.



Lives of the Artists, Lives of the Architects (Allen Lane, £22) by Hans Ulrich Obrist, curator and co-director of the Serpentine Gallery, is a snapshot of the author's talks with key figures including David Hockney, Gilbert and George, Rem Koolhaas and Oscar Niemeyer. It's a rare insight into the creative processes of modern-day artistic greats.

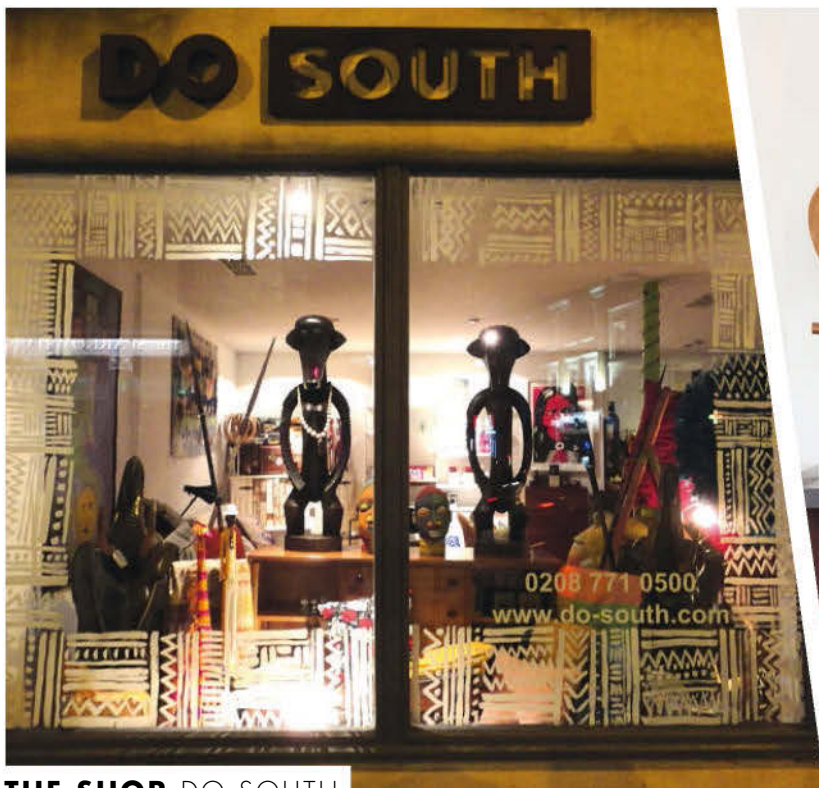


Local Colour: Seeing Places through Watercolour (Princeton Architectural Press, £12.99) by Mimi Robertson looks at landscapes and cityscapes in terms of tonal palettes, and teaches you how to recreate them in your home using paint. There are lots of practical tips on preparation and technique as well as illustrations and colour-matching examples.

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THE SHOP DO SOUTH

A short stroll from Gipsy Hill station, Do South is an unexpected South London gem. Large cast-iron doors mark the entrance to the gallery-like space, which features an ever-changing display of design-led pieces and unusual artefacts.

Who owns it? Creative director Freddie Oke worked in contract publishing, music and property development before pursuing his nagging ambition to 'do something different' and opening Do South. The shop has been in business for four years, and now offers product sourcing and interior design services.



What's so great about it? The mix of contemporary items (from brands such as Hay, Established & Sons and String) with carefully restored vintage furniture and handmade finds from around the globe. You could come across anything from 1970s glassware and rare German ceramics to Brazilian textiles.

Why do shoppers love it? Imaginatively curated, the space feels more like a showcase of beautiful objects than a shop. Plus, the new website has made all of its wares available nationwide. 2 Westow Street, London SE19 (dosouthshop.com)

OUT FROM THE SHADOWS

Looking for a new take on the classic black leather sofa? Spanish designer Jaime Hayón's curvaceous 'Vico' design for Cassina has been reborn in butter-soft Nappa leather. The contemporary twist is the slender matt black or bronze-finish aluminium frame, which creates a light, elegant silhouette. £5,754 (cassina.com).



WORDS: TESSA PEARSON (THE SHOP)



IT'S A WRAP

Clever reissues always go down well here at ELLE Decoration, so we applaud Brit brand Mini Moderns' cunning repackaging of its wallpaper collections, including 'Guls' and 'Equinox', as a gift-wrap book, including cute tags. It's just the ticket for last-minute present wrapping. £14.95 (minimoderns.com).



LOVE NEST

Trendsetter Paola Navone has reimagined quintessentially British furniture brand Ercol's retro stick-back beechwood sofas by upholstering them in her trademark textiles. The limited-edition range includes large and small sofas and an armchair, all of which make perfect updates for sunny spots in the home. A design classic just got even better. Pictured: 'Nest' large sofa, £5,395 (ercol.com).

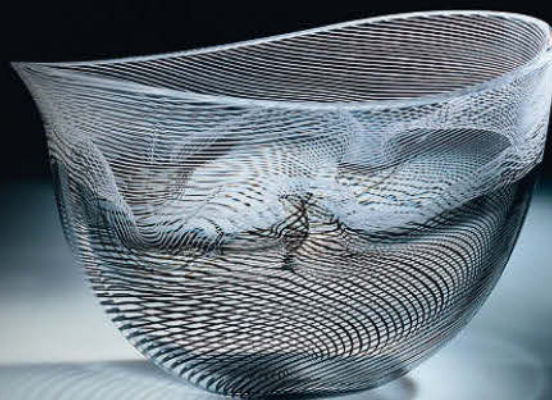
INSIDE STORY **SEGUSO**

The tale of a historic glassware dynasty

ITALIAN BRAND SEGUSO has been producing glass on the Venetian island of Murano since the 14th century, making it one of the oldest glassblowing companies in the world. Seguso goblets and carafes may well have been among those immortalised by Renaissance painters such as Caravaggio and Titian. Since those beginnings, it has been commissioned to make bespoke pieces by everyone from the Vatican to fashion brands Fendi and Dior. Seguso also creates its own unique and beautiful colours, which are mixed in a closely guarded chamber known as the 'room of secrets' at its Murano headquarters.

Making everything from chandeliers to stemware and objets d'art, the brand has maintained its tradition of hand craftsmanship – its glassblowing skills have been passed from father to son over 22 generations. Today, the company is led by brothers Gianluca and Pierpaolo Seguso. Their father, Giampaolo, is a senior artisan who creates colourful, one-of-a-kind designs that he then hand-etches with his own poems. This is his way of adding a personal touch to a centuries-old craft. In 1993, he established Seguso Viro, creating contemporary glass objects using ancient techniques. Examples of his work are owned by the V&A in London and New York's Museum of Modern Art.

If you want to own a Seguso piece for your own home, you'll have to make the trip to Murano, where you can see the glass being blown and marvel at the strength and skill of the craftspeople. However, there are plans afoot to bring a selection of designs to the UK later this year, so watch this space (seguso.com).



From top Talented artisans at work in Seguso's Murano workshop; the 'Coppa Vago' vase by Giampaolo Seguso



design Paola Navone - ph. Andrea Ferrari

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FARMHOUSE FRESH

Architect David Chipperfield is the high priest of simplicity – his buildings include the Hepworth Wakefield and the Turner Contemporary art gallery in Margate – so it's no surprise that his new furniture range for German brand E15 is wonderfully serene. The oak 'Fayland' table, originally designed for a private home in the English countryside, evokes the look of traditional farmhouse furniture, but with clean, modern lines. A sleek bench completes a look that's perfect for family dinners. 'Fayland' table, from £2,605; 'Fawley' bench, from £1,060 (e15.com).



TEA KITTY

Cult French brand Astier de Villatte's ongoing collaboration with Japanese artist Countess Setsuko Klossowska de Rola – widow of artist and feline fanatic Balthus – has produced this charming new cat teapot, inspired by the creative couple's much-loved four-legged friends (there's also a matching incense holder). At £218, the 'Théière Chat Grande' is not as cheap as a 'Brown Betty' teapot, but it will certainly be a talking point at teatime (astierdevillatte.com).

3 OF THE BEST AFFORDABLE PRINT ARTISTS

Decorating your home with art can be expensive, so be smart and choose pocket-friendly works by these up-and-coming artists.



From top *For Rest* by Anki Josefsson and Anneli Sandström, £35, *One Must Dash* (onemustdash.com). *Balloon Yoko*, £18, Rachel Powell (racheljpowell.com). *Between the Lines 2* by Claudia Pape, £60, *Above & Beyond* (aboveandbeyond.london)

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HOME COMFORTS

Little luxuries to make you feel wonderful

We've always admired Italian brand Kartell's genius when it comes to plastic furniture. Now, it's branched out into new territory with its 'Kartell Fragrances' collection, which includes candles, room sprays, reed diffusers and high-tech electronic diffusers, all in striking vessels created by veteran Kartell designer Ferruccio Laviani. There are eight scents to choose from, all composed by a team of international perfumers. Standout designs include the 'Oyster' candle, whose smooth form is inspired by Japanese bento boxes, and the swirly 'Vogue' electronic scent sphere (pictured below), which can diffuse perfume over an area of 25 square metres. From £45 for a candle (kartell.com).



TOWELLING GLORY

On a recent trip to the Far East, we discovered Singapore-based brand Ploh's superlative bath robes.

Made from white chenille microfibre, they are unbelievably soft and fluffy – put one on and it's like being wrapped up in a cloud. Happily, they can be shipped internationally, which means everyone can enjoy what might be the world's best dressing gown. From £113 (ploh.com).

THE ANOINTED ONES

Mauli's beautifully presented bath and skincare products deliver delicate, Indian-inspired scents. Named after a sacred red thread used in Indian blessing rituals, the brand is run by husband-and-wife team Anita and Bittu Khaushal, whose all-natural recipes are based on the expertise of Bittu's father, an Ayurvedic doctor. We love the 'Sacred Himalayan Healing' bath salts, £39, which are blended with therapeutic oils such as patchouli, and the 'Sacred Union' scent and dry oil, £64, which is ideal for refreshing your skin after bathing. Plus, £1 from every purchase goes to children's charities (maulirituals.com).



ROASTING REVIVAL

This retro coffee packaging by Alma de Cuba will brighten up any morning – and the contents aren't bad, either. The brand's aim is to revive the Cuban coffee industry, which until the 1950s was one of the biggest in the world, by investing in local farmers, plant nurseries and the vets who support the mules that transport the beans from mountain plantations. It's an ethically sound caffeine hit. From £9.50, Harvey Nichols (harveynichols.com).



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

We're used to visiting London's School of Life for talks by renowned wordsmiths; now we'll be going there for a different kind of sustenance, thanks to its new 'Philosophical Honey' range. Each one is inspired by a great Greek thinker. 'Plato of Athens' honey is scented with thyme, 'Zeno of Cyprus' is made by bees that feed on wild lavender, and 'Epicurus of Samos' is redolent of wild flowers. £25 for a set of three (theschooloflife.com).

SALAD DAYS

Fashion designer Tory Burch is reviving a leafy pottery sensation from the 1960s

Socialite CZ Guest, the Duchess of Windsor and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis were all fans of Florida potter Dodie Thayer's lettuce ware, as is fashion designer Tory Burch, who has collaborated with the 'Pottery Queen of Palm Beach' on a revival of her leafy designs. Burch has been collecting vintage examples of the crockery for years, ever since her mother gave her a piece as a Christmas present. 'Thayer taught herself how to cast pottery from real lettuce and cabbage leaves,' says Burch. 'While I was working on my own home collection, I kept referencing her work. So I asked her if she would be willing to collaborate with me and was thrilled when she said yes!' The new pieces are the same wonderful shade of green as Thayer's originals with similar exquisite hand detailing, but are now dishwasher-safe, too. Take a tip from CZ Guest and display them en masse in your kitchen. From £60 (toryburch.co.uk).



'I asked the Pottery Queen of Palm Beach if she would be willing to collaborate with me on my own collection of lettuce ware and was thrilled when she said yes'



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HOME SCENT ICON 'ROSE DE MAI' CANDLE BY ROJA PARFUMS

What better choice for May than a candle devoted to a flower that only blooms in that month? British perfumer Roja Dove's 'Rose de Mai' candle is a celebration of the world's most expensive rose, a tiny crop of whose plump, pink blooms are cultivated in the famous French perfume town of Grasse. 'It's an ingredient so costly that it is rarely used in perfumery,' Dove explains. 'Its serene and classically elegant scent inspired me.' We have never smelled a truer rose fragrance: imagine a living flower in a summer garden, honeyed yet peppery. You can practically feel the sun's warmth and hear the bumblebees buzzing.

Dove's choice of Rose de Mai as the ultimate rose scent is reflected in some startling statistics. The most widely used variety in the perfume industry is the Bulgarian rose, or *Rosa Damascena*; perfectly lovely it is too, but one day's yield produces more than the entire crop of Rose de Mai for one month. The latter costs an astonishing £32,000 per kilo of oil, which requires around 308,000 roses to make. Add in the fact that the blooms must be picked before the sun rises (with each hour, the amount of oil in the petals decreases) and the knowledge that they are harvested by hand, and this candle looks like the fragrance equivalent of unicorn's tears. A rose by any other name would certainly not smell as sweet. From £75 (rojaparfums.com).



FRENCH POLISH

This spring sees the launch of reissued pieces by the late, great French designer Pierre Paulin. There are several must-haves in manufacturer Ligne Roset's range, including a leather 'Andy' sofa and a bookcase (both pictured above), originally created for Paulin's own home. Perhaps the most covetable pieces are those from the designer's first collection, presented as part of his 'ideal apartment' in Paris in 1953: a daybed-meets-coffee table and a wall-mounted secretaire. The edit has been produced in collaboration with Paulin's widow Maia and son Benjamin.

Clockwise from above 'Andy' sofa, from £3,095; 'La Bibliothèque Fil' bookcase, £776; 'Le Secrétaire Mural' desk, £955; 'Day Night' banquette, £2,394, all Ligne Roset (ligne-roset.co.uk)





Big Table _ design Alain Gilles

BONALDO

3 OF THE BEST NEW FASHION READS



Elsa Schiaparelli: A Biography by Meryle Secrest (Fig Tree, £15) chronicles the life story of the designer who elevated fashion to an art form

through her collaborations with artists such as Jean Cocteau and Salvador Dalí. It's a tale of riches to rags and back again: born into the Italian nobility, Schiaparelli had a disastrous marriage but subsequently transformed herself into an icon of style and design.



Mademoiselle: Coco Chanel and the Pulse of History by Rhonda K. Garelick (Random House, £21.50) is by no means the only biography of the great

French designer in existence, but it does have a unique perspective. It places Chanel's life in a global historical context, exploring her connection to the Russian Empire, covert wartime diplomacy and involvement with anti-Semitism.



Joe Eula: Master of Twentieth-Century Fashion Illustration by Cathy Horyn (Harper Collins, £50) is the first monograph on the illustrator whose work came to embody American

chic. As creative director for Halston during the 1970s, Eula immortalised the designer's style with his sketches. He also created album covers for Liza Minnelli and Miles Davis.



THE DARK LORD

Fashion designer Alexander Wang has made his first foray into furniture design with a pair of limited-edition pieces for Italian brand Poltrona Frau. The products (above) showcase Wang's urban-meets-luxury style: a leather and shearling beanbag chair with a bronze base; and a trunk bar on wheels, covered in matt-black shagreen, that doubles as a side table. The designs are reminiscent of Wang's famous metal-studded 'Rocco' handbags (right) and all-black catwalk style. 'Beanbag' chair, £4,495; 'Mini Trunk', £9,495 (poltrona frau.com).



PICTURES: DAN ILECCA (CATWALK SHOTS)

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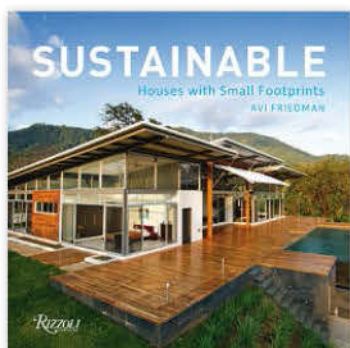
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OUT OF THE OCEAN

The forward-thinking design duo who are making seating out of seaweed

While their texture resembles cork, this chair and pendant light are in fact made from seaweed and recycled paper. They are part of the 'Terroir' collection by Danish team Jonas Edvard and Nikolaj Steenfatt, who use seaweed to create their designs. The natural crop is dried, ground into a powder, cooked into glue and combined with paper to create a tough material that can be moulded into any shape. The colour of the final product is determined by the species of seaweed used and, thankfully, it doesn't retain its odour. This range is only at the prototype stage at the moment, but seaweed could be the furniture material of the future (jonasedvard.dk).



HOW TO SWITCH OFF

New book *Sustainable: Houses with Small Footprints* by Avi Friedman (Rizzoli, £27) showcases nearly 50 contemporary homes from around the world that offer ideas on how to successfully achieve off-grid living. The properties cleverly combine common-sense solutions, such as using locally-sourced materials and natural ventilation strategies, with cutting-edge technology for indoor farming and living walls covered in flowers and greenery.

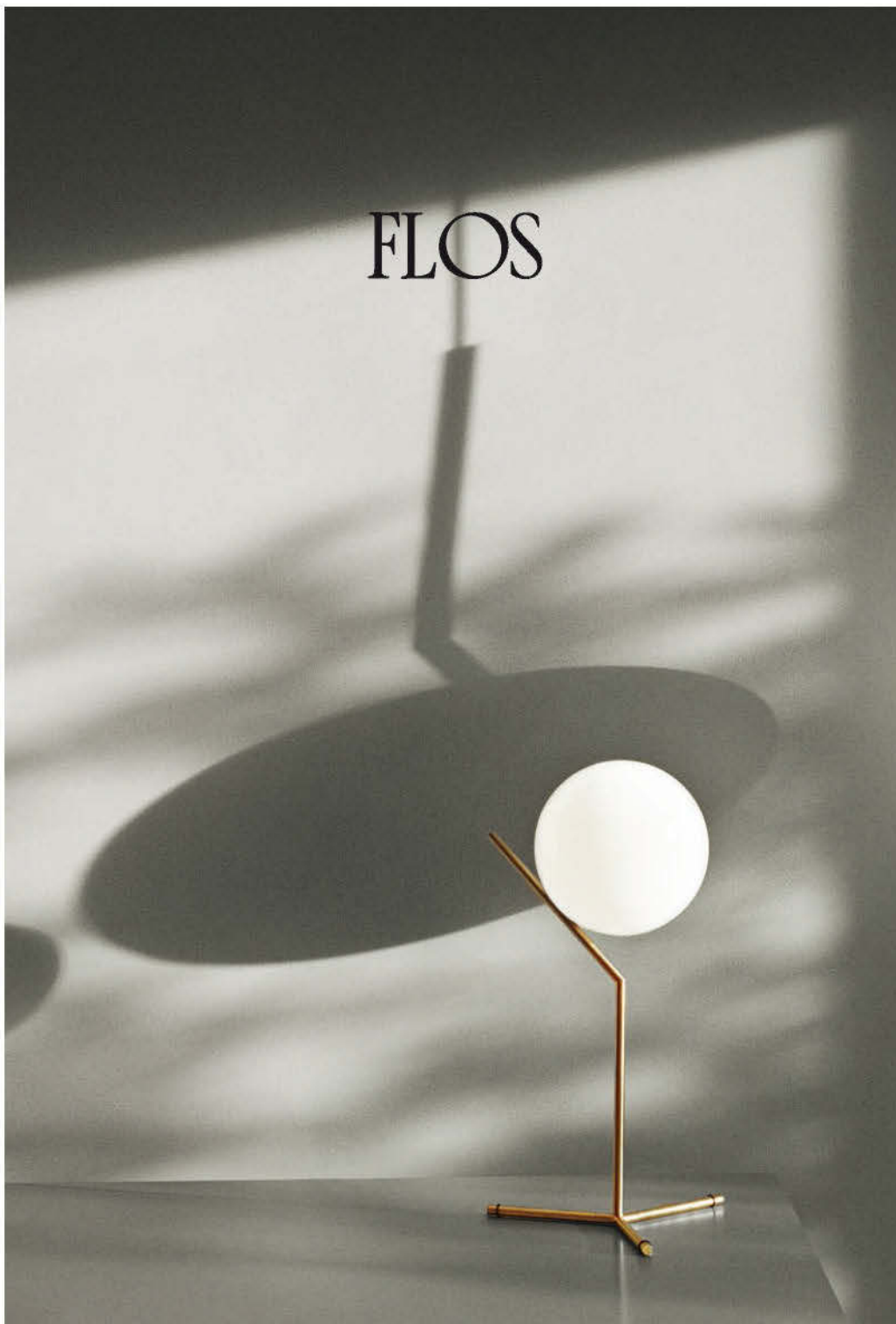
FAIRTRADE SECRETS

These hand-thrown striped ceramic bowls are by eco-minded brand Nkuku, which works with skilled craftspeople in Africa and India to build sustainable trade. Other highlights of its collection are wire and raffia storage baskets and brass chapatti boxes that have been repurposed to hold jewellery. 'Uka Stripe' bowls, from £6.95 each (nkuku.com).



CLEAN LIVING

Brooklyn-based brand Common Good offers a sparkling clean without any of the nasty chemicals by using plant- and mineral-based ingredients, pure essential oils and gentle preservatives. The product range includes hand soap, laundry detergent and all-purpose cleaner (pictured, £11, Another Country; anothercountry.com).



IC
BY MICHAEL ANASTASSIADES

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SHOW TIME

May is set to be a bumper month for craft events. Here's what not to miss

LONDON IS AWASH WITH INSPIRING craft-related events this spring. First up, there's the inaugural London Craft Week, which features open studios, exhibitions and talks (May 6–10; londoncraftweek.com). One of the stand-out listings is 'Made of Mayfair' at The New Craftsmen gallery, a special event that will see makers present new work influenced by the area's history: for example, weaver and designer Catarina Riccabona has taken inspiration from wood carver Grinling Gibbons, whose altarpiece can be seen in St James's Church, Piccadilly. Other highlights include demonstrations at the British Library run by weavers from Edinburgh-based tapestry specialist Dovecot Studios and Fox & Squirrel's guided tour of Bloomsbury's best culinary spots. Plus, there's a talk by ceramicist Kate Malone, who has adorned the façade of a building on Savile Row with 10,000 hand-glazed tiles.

Another date for your diary is Collect, the international art fair for contemporary objects, which returns to the Saatchi Gallery this month. Among the venues taking part are Jagged Art, which will exhibit woven willow sculptures by Laura Ellen Bacon, and the Adrian Sassoon gallery, whose pieces include ceramics, glassware and metalwork (May 8–11; craftscouncil.org.uk).

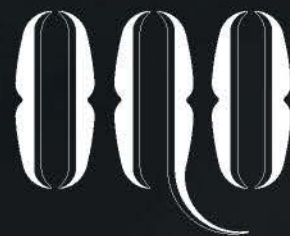
From top Junko Mori's 'A Silver Organism'; slip-cast porcelain vessels designed by Natasha Dainty, both on show at the Adrian Sassoon gallery



VISIBLE SPECTRUM

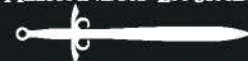
Textile designer Aimee Betts has teamed up with framer John Jones to create a pair of hand-braided, brass-framed mirrors. The 'Colour Wheels' pieces each have a rainbow-like surround of cord that is inspired by the process of patination and has been developed on a circular knitting machine. The mirrors come in two standard sizes and are available at The New Craftsmen. You can also commission one in your chosen size and palette. From £4,835 (thenewcraftsmen.com).

WORDS: EWMA LOVE PICTURES: SYLVAIN DEJEU (SHOWTIME, BOTTOM IMAGE), GARETH HACKER (VISIBLE SPECTRUM)



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THE **WOODSMEN**

Introducing a new generation of woodworkers: we meet three craftspeople who are using traditional techniques to create beautiful pieces, from contemporary lighting to the humble wooden spoon

Words **EMMA LOVE**



TOM RAFFIELD

A Cornwall-based creative who makes lampshades in his woodland studio

'People come to my workshop expecting to see lots of equipment but there are just pipes and wallpaper steamers,' says Tom Raffield, who set up his own business in 2008, using steam-bending techniques to create wooden furniture and lighting. 'Steam-bending is a low-tech process but there's a great deal of skill involved in getting it right,' he says.

Raffield works in a series of cabins on seven acres of woodland, living on site and sourcing most of his wood from there, too. He is known for his rosette-shaped 'No 1' pendant light, which is made from 80 metres of coiled steam-bent wood, as well

as for his 'Butterfly' pendant. Raffield is currently in the process of creating a spiralling bench for the Royal Bank of Canada garden at this year's Chelsea Flower Show. In the future, he'd like to expand the furniture side of his business.

All of his work is inspired by organic forms. 'Looking at those beautiful shapes and knowing that you can develop them into a functional light is exciting,' he says. From £95 for a small 'Helix' light (@TomRaffield; tomraffield.com).

✚ Find out more about Raffield's work at elledcoration.co.uk/news/steambending



PICTURES: ANAY RICE (TOM RAFFIELD), JON CARDWELL (SEBASTIAN COX)



SEBASTIAN COX

A young designer who creates furniture for big-name brands

'I'm inspired by the way wood works; the traditional processes that I use, such as cleaving – a controlled method of splitting wood – inform my designs,' explains award-winning furniture maker Sebastian Cox, who set up his company while studying for a Masters in design at the University of Lincoln. 'I exhibited at the Tent London design fair. Then Caravane, a shop in Paris, ordered some of my hat stands and lighting. Suddenly I was in business and I had to borrow workshop space and equipment to deliver the order,' he says. That was in 2000. Since then, Cox has designed furniture for

Liberty and Heal's. Last year, he launched two collections: a series of products made from coppiced chestnut and ash for Benchmark, and the 'Underwood' range, which included a bench, a ladder, a candelabra and coat pegs in coppiced hazel and ash. Cox makes his pieces using a mix of specialist hand tools and machinery, and gives them a light oil finish. From £75 for a 'Swill' shelf (@sebcoxfurniture; sebastiancox.co.uk).

➤ Find out more about coppicing – a sustainable form of woodland management – at elledecor.com/uk/news/coppicing ➤





BARNABY CARDER

The craftsman who's devoted to carving wooden spoons and spatulas

A saw, an axe and two knives: these are the only tools that Barnaby Carder (aka Barn the Spoon) uses to create his spoons and spatulas, working in the window of his shop on London's Hackney Road. 'I've cut down trees and built a house out of wood, so I understand how the material behaves. I really care about my axe and knives, and that care is transferred to the spoons that I'm making,' he says. Over the years, Carder has dabbled in various types of woodwork – he took a two-year furniture apprenticeship, during which he lived in the woods in Herefordshire. 'That apprenticeship changed everything.

It made me realise that spoons were the most challenging thing to make: they require such control yet they are quick to create, so you get almost-instant gratification.' For years, Carder travelled around the UK selling his spoons. 'The Hackney Road shop has given me great opportunities, but my end goal is to live in the woods and sell everything online,' he says. From £30 for a cooking spoon (@barnthespoon; barnthespoon.com).

✚ Carder co-founded Spoonfest, a spooncarving festival. Find out more at elledecoration.co.uk/news/spoonfest



FIVE MORE WOODWORKERS WE LOVE

ANTHONY BRYANT

Cornwall-based Anthony Bryant is one of the UK's most accomplished wood-turners. His simple, sculptural vessels, which are often made from ultra-thin pieces of ash, beech and holly, highlight the natural burrs, knots and bark of the wood. He turns the pieces on a lathe when the wood is still wet and green, incorporating the dramatic warping that occurs during drying into his designs. From £500 for a 15-centimetre holly vessel (anthonybryant.co.uk).

LIAM FLYNN

Not many people can claim to have had their work pictured on a stamp, but one of wood-turner Liam Flynn's pieces was chosen for a special edition issued to mark 2011, the Year of Craft in Ireland. Flynn lives and works in County Limerick and is known for using ebonised or bleached Irish oak. There's a symmetry between the grain of the wood and the shape of his stark, tonal vessels. From £500 for a 15-centimetre holly vessel (liamflynn.com; @LiamFlynn3).

JOHN JORDAN

Most of the deceptively simple vessels made by Tennessee-based wood-turner John Jordan are crafted from wood that has either been discarded by construction sites or salvaged from felled trees. Jordan turns the fresh, green wood on a lathe and uses delicate hand-carving techniques to create subtle surface textures. From £2,500 for a 15-centimetre pearwood vessel (johnjordanwoodturning.com).

PASCAL OUDET

Inspired by weathered wood, French craftsman Pascal Oudet sandblasts very thin pieces to turn them almost transparent: his work has a delicacy that's reminiscent of lace. Oudet usually has a clear idea of what he wants to make, then sources the right wood to match. From £500 for a 16-centimetre oak piece (lavieenbois.com).

OWEN THOMAS

A former apprentice of Barnaby Carder, Hereford-based Owen Thomas makes simple, functional bowls, spoons and cups from woods such as sycamore, birch and cherry. He uses traditional tools – knives and axes – in combination with a lathe. From £7 for a small serving bowl (owenthomaswoodcraft.com). **ED**



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Designers Guild meets Bisazza

This May, Italian tile brand Bisazza launches a dramatic new floral collection with British designer Tricia Guild, founder of Designers Guild. We caught up with Tricia and Bisazza's director of communications, Rossella Bisazza, to find out more about this unique collaboration

Words **DOMINIC LUTYENS** Photography **SUKI DHANDA**



Bold, colourful, dramatic – Tricia Guild's textiles, wallpapers and paints for her brand Designers Guild are all of these things. So, too, are Italian manufacturer Bisazza's mosaic tiles. A collaboration between the two seems entirely natural, and was realised thanks to a creative affinity and personal friendship between Tricia Guild and Rossella Bisazza. Their new range consists of three romantic, large-scale designs adapted from Designers Guild's hand-painted floral fabric patterns, each of which can transform the look of a wall, floor or ceiling. We talked to the dynamic duo about their creative process.

TRICIA GUILD

What inspired you to collaborate with Bisazza? Designers Guild and Bisazza have a lot in common. We both create decorative, innovative patterns, are forward-thinking and aspire to create products of the highest quality. Also, Bisazza knows what it's doing in terms of translating patterns on to mosaic. My 'Alexandria' design is nuanced, but Rossella was able to make it work thanks to Bisazza's great colour palette. The project also appealed because of the collaborative approach Bisazza takes, working with interesting people, such as Paola Navone. I like working across disciplines, such as ceramics and furniture. In another life, I'd have been a potter!

Tell us about some of the designs in the collection. 'Alexandria' has lots of subtle colours and a very neutral base. It appeals to people who prefer fabrics with a simple background. And I really like the white-on-white colourway of 'Ardassa', which resembles a classic damask. It's almost a non-pattern, extremely clean, contemporary and easy to live with. I'm fond of the same design in green – the colour reminds me of landscapes.

How did you develop the collection? After Rossella and I had picked our favourite patterns, I gave her printouts of the original, hand-painted designs and swatches of the fabrics. Then we discussed scale: we decided to double the size of 'Alexandria' when we transferred it to mosaic as we thought it would work better extended across a whole wall. Enlarging the pattern made it more dramatic. We didn't change the size of the peonies on 'Charlottenberg', though, as they're already huge. Their size stops them from looking sentimental.

Were you nervous about seeing the finished tiles? When Bisazza emailed us images of the patterns in mosaic, I was shocked by how wonderful they looked. There was no need to tweak them. I couldn't believe how beautiful they were. Originally I did wonder if 'Alexandria' – which is a very demanding, multicoloured design – would work as a mosaic, but it does. The project was the perfect combination of Bisazza's expertise and ours.

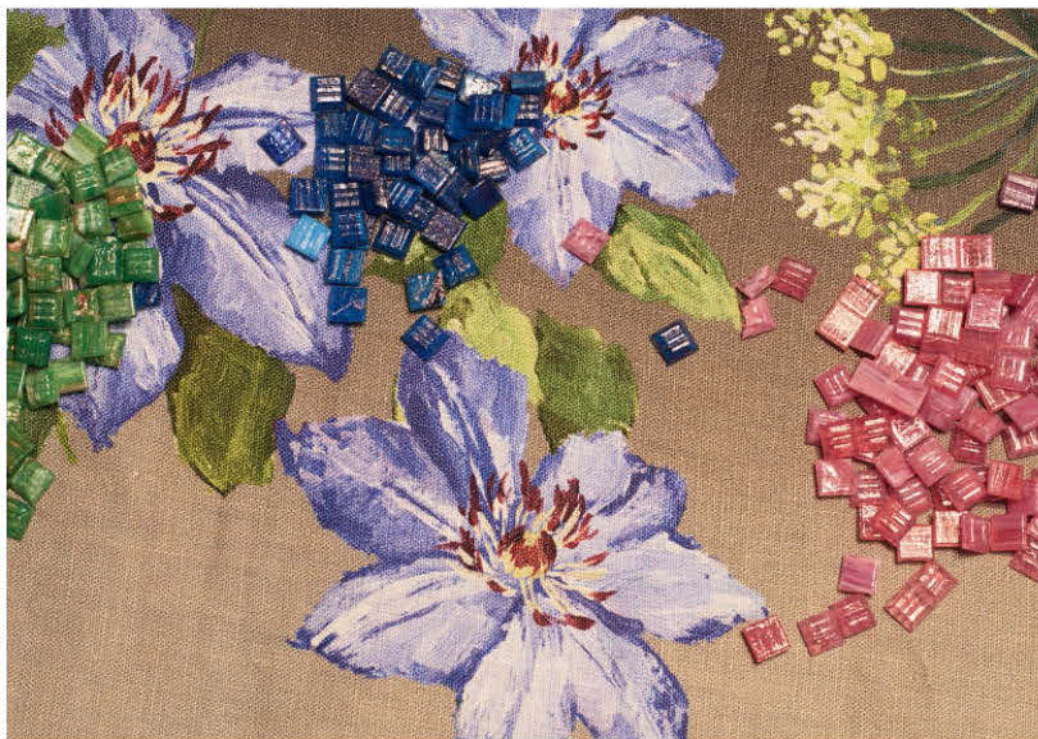
How might the patterns might work in a real home? I think 'Charlottenberg' would look great in industrial spaces. I like the idea of its decorative peony motif contrasting with a raw-looking interior. ➤

Opposite and right After choosing their favourite patterns from the Designers Guild fabric and wallpaper collection, the duo used Bisazza's palette to choose the perfect tile tones



Above One of the patterns adapted by Bisazza (left) and Guild is 'Alexandria' (above), a multicoloured botanical print featuring poppies and cow parsley

'When Bisazza emailed us images of the patterns in mosaic, I was shocked by how wonderful they looked. There was no need to tweak them at all'





ROSSELLA BISAZZA

Why did you decide to create a collection with Tricia Guild?

I'd admired Tricia's work for a long time before we met. She has a unique sense of colour and an incredible talent for designing patterns. We have many interests in common: art, music, ballet, opera. I like the way that Tricia's personality mirrors her work. She's very elegant, yet is also a warm, natural person.

How did you get to know her? We met about five years ago and really hit it off. We got to know each other better when Tricia used Bisazza tiles for the swimming pool at her home in Tuscany. A year-and-a-half ago, I suggested we collaborate, and she was keen. For me, it's important when working with designers to get on with them on a personal and professional level. It's also a very natural fit: Bisazza is internationally renowned for its use of pattern and colour, just like Designers Guild.

How did you decide on the collection's aesthetic? We both agreed it should have a natural, floral theme. Bisazza has several floral patterns in its collection, including a minimalist, graphic one by Japanese design studio Nendo. But what Tricia has created – a capsule collection of three designs – represents a new, very romantic interpretation of the look for Bisazza. It adds a touch of English elegance to our portfolio. Overall, I wanted a range that was recognisably designed by Tricia Guild.

What involvement did Bisazza have with the designs? Last summer, I visited the Designers Guild flagship store on London's King's Road, where Tricia and I looked at several fabrics. I picked some patterns that I thought would translate well as glass mosaics. I eventually narrowed my choice down to two designs: 'Ardassa', a classical acanthus-leaf pattern, and 'Charlottenberg', a super-size peony print, which I thought was interesting because it looked very modern – even more so in the blue and grey colourway that we've chosen. Tricia picked a third pattern, the botanical 'Alexandria', which features poppies and cow parsley. I loved this one, too, for the splendour of its colours. ➤

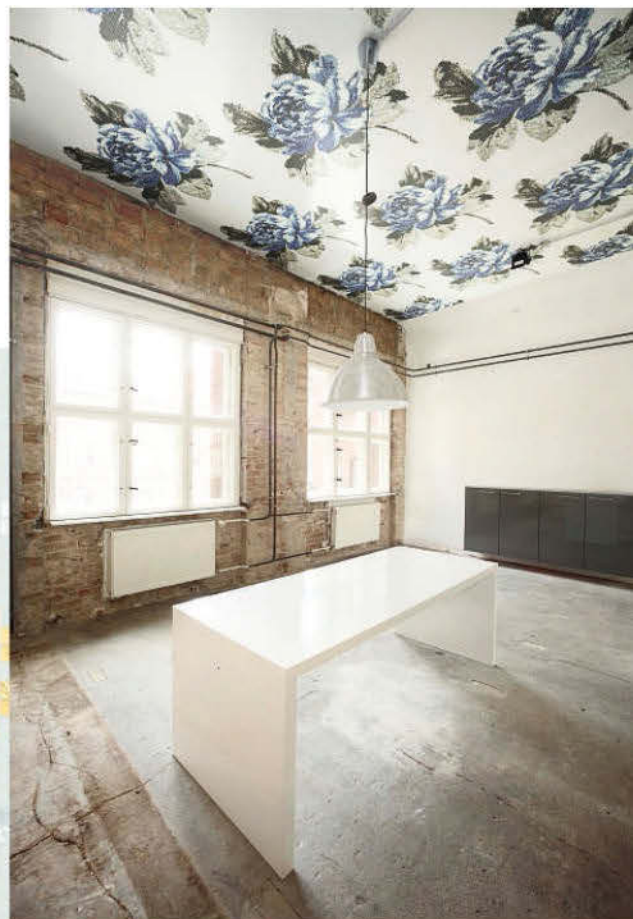


32 of Bisazza's 100 colours were used in the final collection, which comprises three distinctive designs. 'Ardassa' (pictured below) is 'very easy to live with,' says Guild (pictured right). 'It's almost a non-pattern, very clean and contemporary'





'It's important when working with designers to get on with them on a personal and professional level. Tricia and I have lots in common'



The huge peonies on the grey-and-blue 'Charlottenberg' print were perfectly suited to being transferred to mosaic – the design team did not need to alter their scale at all





ROSSELLA BISAZZA continued...

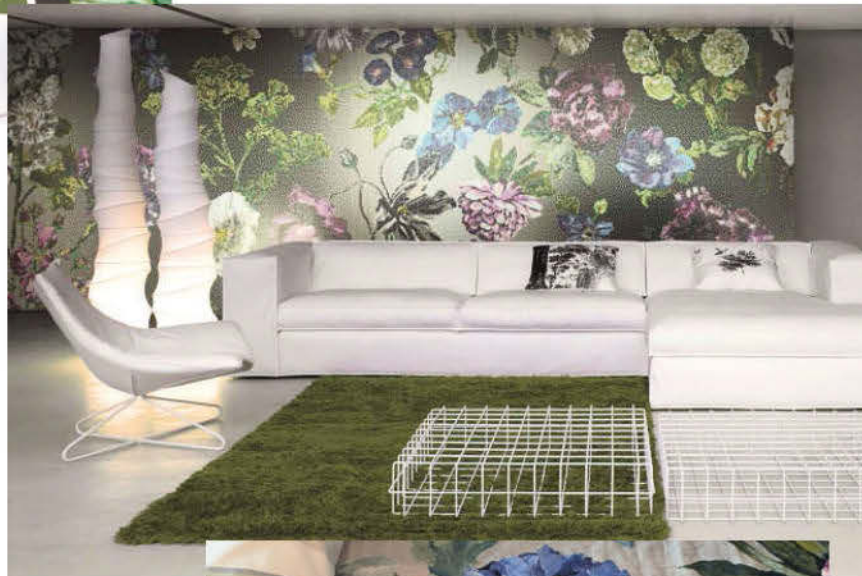
How did you go about translating the fabrics into tiles? We used software to transform them into mosaics. It breaks down every image into pixels — one mosaic tile corresponds to one pixel — reproducing motifs with stunning precision. This was crucial with Tricia's hand-painted designs. To capture the subtlety of 'Alexandria', we used our smallest tiles, which are one-centimetre square. For 'Ardassa' and 'Charlottenberg' we could use larger, two-centimetre square tiles. Tricia was thrilled with the finished designs. They are installed as panels that you can combine to form a mural.

Did your design team encounter any challenges along the way? It was difficult to replicate every delicate nuance and shading in the fabrics — especially 'Alexandria', the most complex pattern — even though our glass tiles come in more than 100 colours. For Tricia's designs, we used 32 colours in total. The mauves in the 'Alexandria' mosaic ended up being slightly darker than those in the fabric, but I find it interesting that we reinterpreted Tricia's textile rather than exactly reproducing it.

How do you see Tricia's designs being used? In a contemporary home — I love the idea of clean-lined, minimalist furniture set against a romantic backdrop. I can also see the painterly murals working well in opulent hotel lobbies and restaurants. **ED**

The 'Tricia Guild for Bisazza collection' launches at Bisazza's London showroom on May 19. 'Alexandria' and 'Charlottenberg' mosaics, £906 per sq m; 'Ardassa' mosaic, £376.80 per sq m (bisazza.com)

'I find it interesting that we reinterpreted Tricia's textile designs rather than exactly reproducing them'



The 'Alexandria' mosaic is made with Bisazza's smallest square tiles, which are just one-centimetre wide. The mosaics come in modular panels, which can be joined together to form huge murals



+ To see an exclusive behind-the-scenes video featuring extra interviews with Tricia Guild and Rossella Bisazza, visit elledecoration.co.uk/style/bisazza

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What is Luxury?

*As the V&A prepares to open an exhibition that poses this very question, we asked author and trend forecaster **James Wallman** to define the concept for the 21st century*

Illustration **SI SCOTT**

Lfew years ago, everywhere I went people were asking the question 'What is luxury?', as if the concept itself was having an existential crisis. Of course, I don't really mean 'everywhere'. But we're talking about luxury, so hyperbole is allowed, right? This is an area where you're confronted by superlatives like 'rare', 'limited edition' and 'unique' at almost every turn. In the turbulent time after the financial crash, the luxury market was going through a crisis. Those in the sector wanted to know how and when they could get back to the double-digit growth they'd enjoyed in the early 2000s.

At luxury events I often found myself sitting down to eat with experts like Lucia van der Post, founder of the *Financial Times's* magazine *How To Spend It* and Tara Loader Wilkinson, now editor-at-large at *Billionaire.com*. After a time, a man in a Savile Row suit would get to his feet, cough, and ask everyone to reveal their definition of luxury. 'It isn't about gold taps and bling anymore,' said one dull spark. (I admit: it was me). 'It's less about the things you have, it's about time, and what you do with it,' offered another. 'When I think of luxury, I imagine being barefoot,' opined someone else. Bet you wish you'd been there, right?

As a trend forecaster, what happens in the luxury sector fascinates me because those at the top of the socio-economic tree are more likely to be innovators and early adopters. What they are doing now can be a good indication of what everyone else will be doing in the future. The more I came across the question 'What is luxury?', the more I realised that I was observing cultural change in action. If the nature of luxury was

shifting, then how people establish their status would also evolve. And over time, that effect would filter down to the rest of society.

Before you look down on the idea of establishing status, remember that this is a perfectly natural way to behave. Birds of paradise do it by displaying their fancy tail feathers. Lions do it by shaking their manes. And, as the Norwegian-American sociologist Thorstein Veblen observed in his 1899 satire *The Theory of the Leisure Class*, humans do it, too. Just as cavemen and barbarians expressed their status through wasteful displays of energy, so in Veblen's time – America's Gilded Age – the wealthy were expressing their status through extravagant spending on faux palazzi and châteaux, like the Louis XVI-style sports pavilion

'If the nature of luxury was shifting, then how people establish their status would also evolve. And over time, that effect would filter down to the rest of society'

at the Astor family's country estate on the banks of the Hudson river in New York state.

Veblen saw the link between the behaviour of his generation's upper class and that of preceding aristocracies, and he was incredibly prescient about the effect that it would have on the 20th century. He believed that 'the signature of one's pecuniary strength should be written in characters which he who runs may read.' Since people were moving from villages where they knew everyone to the relative anonymity of cities, he decided that the best way to express status in the future would be through material goods, not experiences. After all, in the 20th century, people would be able to see your Rolex watch or Louis Vuitton handbag, but who could know that you'd been to the restaurant of the moment, or flown to Marrakech for the weekend?

Now, however, Veblen's theory has been turned on its head by the growth of social media. With all of your friends and followers on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, people do know where you've been. And not just random onlookers, but your peers – the people you are most interested in





displaying your identity and status to. Your social media presence is making experiences more valuable. It plays a role in something called the 'rarity principle': the bigger the difference between the number of people who have access to something and the number of people who know about it, the rarer it is. You could argue that a one-of-a-kind artwork could be as effective at leveraging the rarity principle as an experience, but even if there is only one version of that piece, it is still theoretically available. With experiences, if you weren't there – in Myanmar before everyone discovered it, at Wimbledon when Murray won, at President Obama's first inauguration – that's not something you can ever acquire.

If the best place in the 21st century to find status is in experiences rather than in material goods, then how should we feel about the V&A's latest exhibition, 'What is Luxury?', and its magnificent, artisan-crafted objects? To be clear, I don't think that we have suddenly given up our affection for material goods, or that luxury is now exclusively to be found in experiences. Social change is not like the turning off of a light switch. The V&A's exhibition invites us to think about the gradual shifting of the definition of the term luxury.

Diamonds, for instance, are a symbol of wealth and status, but the V&A proposes a time when faux diamonds will be just as sought after, because of the story and the process of their manufacture. Shane Macklenberger's work 'Tendered Currency', features stones that resemble and are molecularly identical to real diamonds, but are made using carbon extracted from gunpowder and roadkill.

My favourite exhibit, though, and the one that

**'Social media has turned
Veblen's theory of luxury
on its head, by making
experiences more valuable'**

I think most closely illustrates the meaning of luxury in the future, is a whimsical work called 'Time for Yourself' by Marcin Rusak. Featuring a pen with no ink, a watch with no dial, and a compass whose needle spins around to random points, it will make you wonder when you last got lost, either in space or time. It may bring to mind what that felt like – the fear, the magic, the sense of freedom and possibility. It should remind you that *you* – what you do with your time, where you go – are far more valuable than anything you own. So, do visit the V&A exhibition. After all, this carefully curated collection will only be there for a short time – if you don't go, you won't have been part of the experience. And one more thing: it will furnish you with a good answer, should anyone turn to you at dinner and ask, 'What is luxury?'. **ED**

James Wallman is a trend forecaster (thefutureisalreadyhere.com) and the author of 'Stuffocation: Living More with Less' (Penguin, £9.99). 'What is Luxury?', a V&A and Crafts Council exhibition, is at the V&A Museum from April 25–September 27 (vam.ac.uk)



ATELIER ARETI



Austrian sisters Gwendolyn and Guillane Kerschbaumer create timeless lighting with an architectural dimension

Words **TALIB CHOUDHRY**

'WE GREW UP AMONG ANTIQUE TRUNKS from Afghanistan, French walnut cabinets, African sculptures and lots of other things from around the world,' says Gwendolyn Kerschbaumer of her childhood home in Innsbruck, Austria. 'Our mother was not trained in art or design, but she had an eye for beauty and it is a great pity that she didn't pursue the subject professionally.' Thanks to Frau Kerschbaumer's enthusiasm, however, both of her daughters have. Gwendolyn studied architecture at Harvard University and her younger sister Guillane studied history of art at the Sorbonne in Paris, followed by product design at Central Saint Martins. The sisters have since gained international acclaim for their sculptural lighting, designed under the moniker Atelier Areti ('areti' is Greek for excellence). Ranging from simple pendants and orb-like wall lights to large statement lamps that look more like art installations, their work has been a hit.

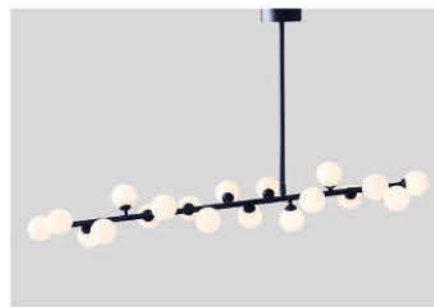
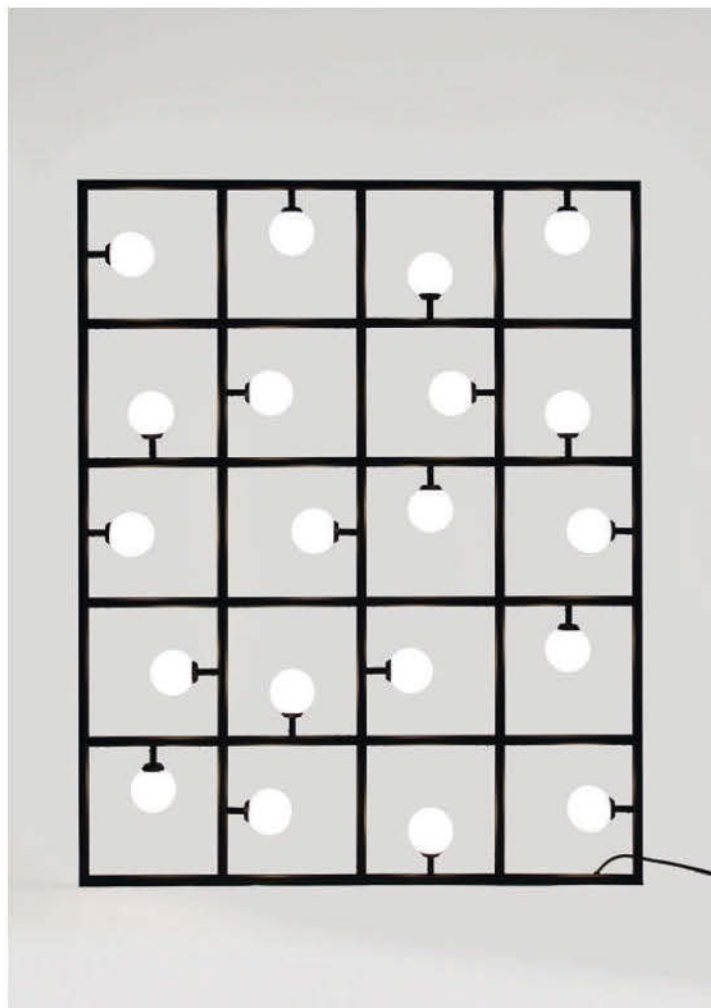
The sisters' success is largely down to the fact that they have a great understanding of how their products will be used, gathered through practical experience: Guillane worked for an interior

'There is a sculptural aspect to our work. We always imagine how a light will interact with a space and define it'

designer in London after graduating and Gwendolyn was employed at architectural practices in New York and Europe. Although they were in different cities, the sisters still found time to bring their designs to life, launching their first collection in 2008. 'Our background is not product design, but it plays an important role in how we approach our work,' says Gwendolyn. 'There's a strong sculptural aspect to it. We always imagine how a light will interact with a space and define it.' Underlying this theoretical approach is an emphasis on working closely with the craftspeople who produce their lights in Germany and Sweden. 'They're very humble, emphasising that they do not understand much about "design", yet their passion for making things well is already an act of design,' says Guillane.

'Our aspiration is to make pieces that are useful and beautiful,' explains Gwendolyn. 'Ideally a piece of furniture or a light should last for 100 years. Certain qualities will always be stylish because they speak to essential needs and desires that we all share.' (@atelierareti; atelierareti.com). **ED**

Clockwise from top 'Squares'; 'Mimosa' pendant light; 'Ilios' pendant light; 'Two Spheres'; 'Ilios' wall light, all by Atelier Areti





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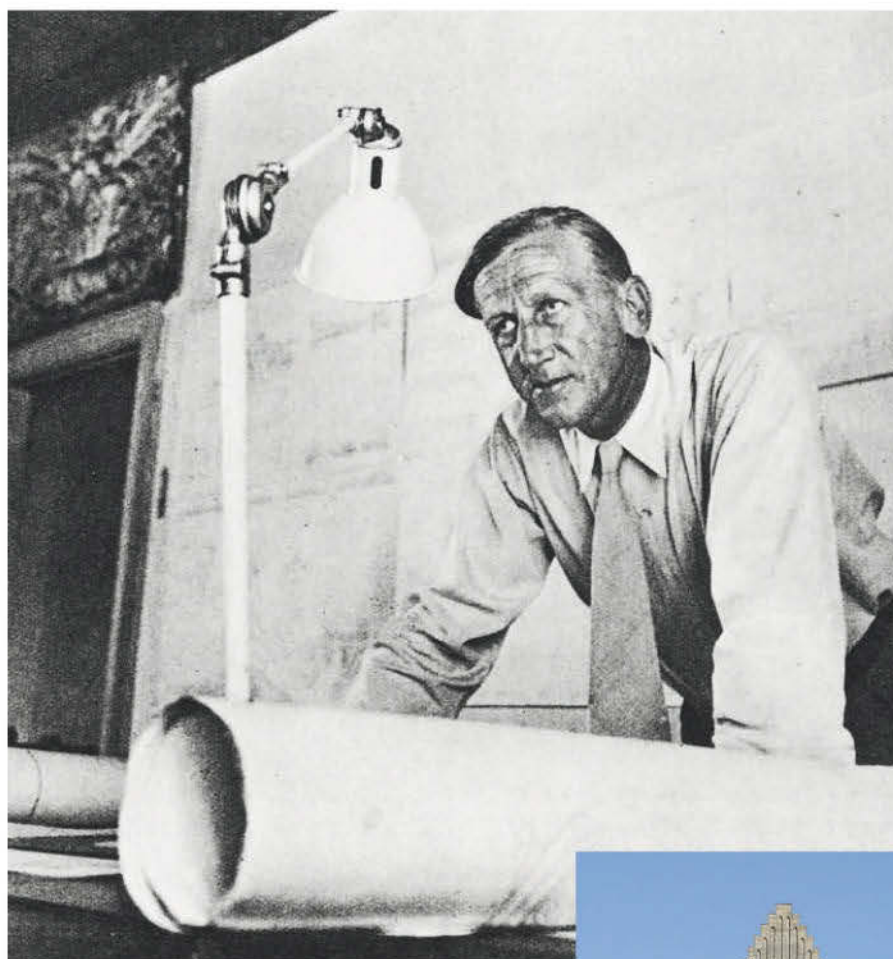
The Danish designer who fused neoclassicism and Modernism

Words **DOMINIC LUTYENS**

KAARE KLINT (1888–1954) is regarded as the godfather of mid-century Danish furniture, famous for classics such as the 'Safari' chair (1933; pictured above) – a contemporary take on a colonial officer's folding seat – and a series of pleated lights produced in the 1940s. Born in Frederiksberg, Copenhagen, Klint was initially apprenticed as a furniture maker, but later studied architecture under his father, architect Peder Vilhelm Jensen-Klint. In 1940, Klint completed the design of Grundtvig's Church in Copenhagen (pictured right), unfinished upon Jensen-Klint's death in 1930, consolidating his father's legacy. The building's striking design fuses traditional Gothic and modern Expressionist architecture beautifully.

Klint's first piece of furniture was the 'Faaborg' chair, which he created in 1914 with another of his mentors, architect Carl Petersen. Produced for the Faaborg art museum, which Petersen designed, it had a canework seat and was devised to be light and portable. Its gentle, neoclassical look was one strongly favoured by Klint, whose work blended elements from the past and present.

In 1924, Klint became a professor of furniture design at the Royal Danish Academy of Fine Arts, where he took an avant-garde, scientific approach. He related his designs to



human proportions, following the principles of anthropometry and ergonomics. Yet he also espoused traditional craftsmanship and took inspiration from simple 18th-century English furniture. Many of his pieces were first produced by Danish brand Rud Rasmussen, which still sells several of Klint's works today, including the boxy sofa (pictured below right) that he designed in 1930 for Danish Prime Minister Thorvald Stauning's office.

Some of Klint's students, including Poul Kjærholm and Børge Mogensen, went on to become famous names themselves. Mogensen created the oak-and-leather 'Spanish' chair (1958), which strongly echoes Klint's iconic 'Safari' seat. As practical

and elegant now as it was when it was first designed, the 'Safari' chair (now available from Carl Hansen & Søn) can be assembled and dismantled without using any tools.

Klint also excelled at lighting. His designs for Le Klint, a brand founded by his father, feature concertinaed or knife-pleat paper shades and are still produced today. The '306' table lamp (£590, Panik; panik-design.com), designed in 1945, tilts to convert to a wall light, and with its crisp white shade and brass base, highlights Klint's flair for balancing the classical and the contemporary. **ED**

Klint believed in functionality, but also espoused traditional craftsmanship



Clockwise from top left Klint's 'Safari' chair is produced by Carl Hansen & Søn (£1,482 as pictured, Skandium; skandium.com); Grundtvig's Church was designed by Klint's father, architect Peder Vilhelm Jensen-Klint, and finished by Klint (pictured) in 1940; the 'KK41181' sofa (1930), produced by Rud Rasmussen (£12,468; rudrasmussen.dk)

PICTURE: ALAMY/CHURCH

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STYLE ICON VALERIAN RYBAR

The flamboyant Yugoslavian dubbed 'the world's most expensive decorator'

Words **AMY BRADFORD**

IF YOU WERE A NOVELIST in search of a name for a fictional society decorator, you'd probably want something outlandish and expensive sounding. Lady Colin Campbell didn't have to look far for inspiration when she was writing her book *Empress Bianca* (2005), a scandalous *roman à clef* alleged to represent the life of socialite Lily Safran: she simply settled on Valerian Rybar (1919–1990), a real-life interior designer with an improbably exotic moniker.

In the 1970s, Rybar was dubbed 'the world's most expensive decorator'. 'Today, for a room of quality, you have to spend at least thirty thousand dollars,' he once said. And that was before buying art and antiques. The flamboyant designer is said to have been born in Sarajevo and sent to 'a fancy school in Vienna' before studying law in Stockholm. Abandoning his training, he went to New York and created cosmetics packaging for Elizabeth Arden, before setting up his own decorating business. With his partner, the French decorator Jean-François Daigre, he designed homes and party schemes for some of the world's wealthiest people, including members of the Rothschild clan.

What makes him an icon? Rybar is remembered for extravagances such as the Oriental Ball in 1969 that he masterminded for Baron

Alexis de Redé (Style Icon in our April issue), but his own homes were equally showstopping. His apartment in Sutton Place, New York, was decorated in three colours – coral, brown and silver – and was an advert for his ritzy playboy chic. The living room had velvet-upholstered walls and a huge mink rug by Oscar de la Renta. The fireplace was made of polished stainless steel, Rybar's favourite material, which he also used as flooring, so that rooms would look 'as precious as a Fabergé box'. In the dining room (pictured), the walls were lined with hundreds of faux books, all bearing droll titles relating to chapters of their owner's life ('International Boredom' was said to refer to Rybar's ill-fated marriage to Irish heiress Aileen Guinness). More stainless steel appeared in the bedroom, where the bedside tables featured control panels that operated everything from the TV to the electric



blanket; and in the bathroom, where a sandblasted stainless-steel tub was reproduced in infinity thanks to the mirrored walls and ceiling. This dazzling hall-of-mirrors effect was also deployed in the Paris townhouse that Rybar shared with Daigre, where it transformed a rococo salon into a futuristic fantasy. No wonder Lady Campbell snapped him up for her novel about the jet set. **ED**

PICTURES: LEONARD NONES (MAIN IMAGE); EZRA STOLLER (INSET)

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Edited by **HANNAH BORT**



PICTURE: CHRISTINA KAYSER ONSGAARD



From left 'Case Study' ceramic planter and stand by Modernica, from £138, SCP (www.scp.co.uk). 'Marie' wire planter by Marie Michielssen, £69, Serax (serax.com). 'Linn' black-and-white rugs, £99 each, Pappelina (pappelina.com). 'Super Archimoon' floor light by Philippe Starck, £6,950, Flos (flos.com). 'Optical Pineapple' yellow flooring from the 'Bolon by Missoni' collection, £101 per sq m, Flooring Concepts (flooring-concepts.co.uk). 'B2' coffee table by Victor Vasilev, £1,155, Living Divani (livingdivani.it). 'Swiss' watering can, £12.80, Manufactum (manufactum.co.uk). 'Martello' orange plant pot, £10, Habitat (habitat.co.uk). Cactus vases, from £31 each, Serax (serax.com). 'Dandy' sofa by Rodolfo Dordoni, £4,925, Roda (rodaonline.com). Cushion covered in 'Bonifacio' fabric, £79 per

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Stylist **HANNAH BORT**

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sq m, Casamance (casamance.com). 'Vieques' **rocking chair** by Patricia Urquiola, £1,911, Kettal (kettal.com). 'May' **white shelves**, £511; 'June' **black shelves**, £534, both by Gino Carollo for Bonaldo, Go Modern (gomodern.co.uk). **Vases** (two pictured), from £35 each, W6 Garden Centre (w6gardencentre.co.uk). **Terrarium**, £165, The Urban Botanist (theurbanbotanist.co.uk). 'Agadir' **lanterns** (on floor) by Paola Lenti, from £422 each, The Modern Garden Company (moderngardencompany.co.uk). **Walls painted in** (from left): 'Canton 94', £37 for 2.5l, Little Greene (littlegreene.com); 'Pale Powder', £38 for 2.5l, Farrow & Ball (farrow-ball.com); 'Delft Tile', £39 for 2.5l, Designers Guild (designersguild.com); 'Orange Aurora 21', £37 for 2.5l, Little Greene (littlegreene.com) ➤



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From left 'Corallo' clothes stand by Michael Sodeau, £793, Gervasoni (gervasoni1882.it). 'Bonnet Palla' teal pouf by Liset van der Scheer for Casalis, £284, Studio 37 (studio37uk.com). 'In Out 406' modular seating by Paola Navone, from £665 for a unit, Gervasoni (gervasoni1882.it). Cushions covered in (from left) 'Porto-Vecchio' fabric, £68.90 per sq m, Casamance (casamance.com); 'Wind and Sea Stripe' fabric, £120 per sq m, Ralph Lauren (ralphlaurenhome.com); 'Torre' fabric, £97 per sq m, Casamance (casamance.com). 'Nest' bird box (hanging) by Filippo Pisan, £330; 'Terramare' tables by Ilaria Lubelli, from £834 each, both De Castelli (decastelli.it). Pot, £10, Habitat (habitat.co.uk). 'Cobbles' rug by Esti Barnes, £578 per sq m, Top Floor (topfloorrugs.com). Fire pit, £95, Cox & Cox (coxandcox.co.uk). 'Fifty' chair by Dögg and Arved Design Studio, £970, Ligne Roset (ligne-roset.co.uk). 'Zigzag Cyan' flooring from the 'Bolon by Missoni' collection, £101 per sq m, Flooring Concepts (flooring-concepts.co.uk). 'Luxembourg' trolley by Fermob, £392, Barbed (barbed.co.uk). Plates, stylist's own. 'Kartio' tumblers by Kaj Franck for Iittala, £16 each, Twenty Twenty One (twentytwentyone.com). 'X Pot' hanging pots by Pascal Grossiord for Compagnie, £49.80, Made in Design (madeindesign.co.uk). 'Concept A' modular kitchen by Kilian Schindler, £1,100, N by Naber (n-by-naber.com). 'Jackson' vase, £30, Habitat (habitat.co.uk). 'Terra Cotto' casserole pots by Stefania Vasques for Sambonet, from £49.50 each, Twenty Twenty One (twentytwentyone.com). Walls painted in (from left): 'Delft Tile' £39 for 2.5l, Designers Guild (designersguild.com); 'Canton 94', £37 for 2.5l, Little Greene (littlegreene.com); 'Yellowcake', £38 for 2.5l, Farrow & Ball (farrow-ball.com); 'Tuscan Red 140', £37 for 2.5l, Little Greene (littlegreene.com) ➤







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From left 'Pool I' vinyl flooring, from £58.50 per sq m, Mura Floors (murafloor.com). 'Pasaia' shower by Fermob, £592, Barbed (barbed.co.uk). 'Mate' storage rack by Annalisa Dominoni and Benedetto Quaaro for Living Divani, £915, Boffi (boffiuk.com). 'Pots', £22 each, W6 Garden Centre (w6gardencentre.co.uk). 'Luxury Pumpkin' pouf, £328, Tribù (tribu.com). 'Mirto' chaise longue by Antonio Citterio, £2,275, B&B Italia (bebitalia.com). 'Waves' orange towel, £80, Zuzunaga (zuzunaga.com). Bench by Harry Bertoia, £2,268, Knoll (knoll-int.com). Planter by Marie Michielssen, £45, Serax (serax.com). 'Santorini' wall lights by Sputnik Estudio for Marset, from £200 each, All Square (allsquaregrp.co.uk). 'Torre' fabric (hanging), £97 per sq m, Casamance (casamance.com). Parasols, £1,450 each, Sunbeam Jackie (sunbeamjackie.com). Wire planter by Marie Michielssen, £69, Serax (serax.com). 'Eos' lounger by Matthew Hilton, £550, Case Furniture (casefurniture.co.uk). 'Waves' towels, as before. Cushions covered in (from left) 'Kerkyra' fabric, £63 per m, Osborne & Little (osborneandlittle.com); 'Girolata' fabric, £59 per sq m, Casamance (casamance.com). 'Pineapple' rug by Fermob, £280, Barbed (barbed.co.uk). 'Dala' side table by Stephen Burks for Dedon, from £515, Leisure Plan (leisureplan.co.uk). Walls painted in (from left): 'Canton 94', £37 for 2.5l, Little Greene (littlegreene.com); 'Yellowcake', £38 for 2.5l, Farrow & Ball (farrow-ball.com); 'Delft Tile' £39 for 2.5l, Designers Guild (designersguild.com); 'Orange Aurora 21', £37 for 2.5l, Little Greene (littlegreene.com) ►



PARADISE FOUND

From left 'Rounduti Folia' fountain, £419, Laorus (laorus.fr). 'Berry' rug by Esti Barnes, £578 per sq m, Top Floor (topfloorrugs.com). 'Unus' grey stool, £413, Desalto (desalto.it). 'Mon Oncle' barbecue by Mermelada Estudio for RS Barcelona, £207, Made in Design (madeindesign.com). 'Shadowy' stripy chair by Tord Boontje, £1,705, Moroso (moroso.co.uk). 'Traffic' table by Magis, £488, Iroko (iroko.com). Cactus vase, from £31, Serax (serax.com). 'Aston Cord' armchair by Rodolfo Dordoni, £3,305, Minotti (minottilondon.com). 'Opera' garden tools set by Alessandro Masturzo, £1,513, De Castelli (decastelli.it). 'Quarto' dining table, £1,460; tray £165, both by Manutti, Go Modern (gomodern.co.uk). 'Gardenia' terracotta vases by Jamie Hayón, from £223 each, BD Barcelona (bdbarcelona.com). 'Twist' red stool by Emilio Nanni, £690, Zanotta (zanotta.it). 'Hero' orange chair, £92.50, Calligaris (calligaris.co.uk). 'Sky' hanging planters, from £22 each, Boskke (boskke.com). 'Leaf' white chair by Lievore Altherr Molina, £255, Arper (arper.com). 'Tattoo Cactus' poufs by Baleria Italia for Hub Design, £695 each, Mint (mintshop.co.uk). Walls painted in (from left): 'Canton 94', £37 for 2.5l, Little Greene (littlegreene.com); 'Yellowcake', £38 for 2.5l, Farrow & Ball (farrow-ball.com); 'Tuscan Red 140', £37 for 2.5l, Little Greene (littlegreene.com) 'Delft Tile' £39 for 2.5l, Designers Guild (designersguild.com) **Plants throughout provided by W6 Garden Centre (w6gardencentre.co.uk) ED**



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TURN UP THE HEAT

Enjoy your garden even after the sun goes down with our selection of the best outdoor heating solutions, from roaring fire pits to chimeneas

Words SARAH SLADE

FREESTANDING FIREPLACES

Transform your garden into an inviting outdoor living room with a stylish, portable fireplace that burns bioethanol. This eco-friendly fuel only emits carbon dioxide and water vapour, so there is no need for a flue. Bioethanol also produces a clean, clear flame that has no soot, ash or smoke – making it a good option if you live in an area where wood-burning fires are banned. Completely user-friendly, the fires are stoked by pouring fuel into a chamber next to the burner. Use a long metal lighting rod to ignite the flame, which is contained behind toughened glass panels. You can purchase top-up fuel at Smart Fire (from £46 for 20 litres; smartfireuk.com). Go Modern, which has a showroom on London's King's Road, sells a range of contemporary 'Decoflame' fireplaces (gomodern.co.uk).

Dream buy 'Llar' powder-coated steel fireplace by Borja Garcia, from £1,035, Gandia Blasco (gandiablasco.com)

3 OF THE BEST GARDEN TORCHES



From top 'Barra' by Blomus, £100, Black By Design (black-by-design.co.uk). 'Fire' by Norm Architects for Menu, £43, Panik (panik-design.com). 'Phoro', from £116, Tribù (tribu.com) ►

BARBECUES

Investing in a barbecue that's super sleek, quick to get going and a breeze to clean will inspire you to entertain outside through the cool spring evenings and into autumn, too. Cole Henley's steel and iroko-wood gas-fired 'Barbecue Table' has a burner that runs along the centre of the tabletop, meaning that all of your guests can join in with the cooking (from £2,519; colehenley.com). If you prefer a more traditional barbecuing experience, the '7200' charcoal-fired model by Dancook is compact and portable (£50, The Worm that Turned; worm.co.uk). It's also worth investing in a 'starter chimney', a gadget that produces white-hot embers in minutes. Simply place paper at the bottom of the chimney, fill it with charcoal and light the base. Natural coconut-shell charcoal (try Caliu, from £7; caliu.eu) retains heat better than the regular stuff; plus, it's odourless and doesn't produce smoke or ash.



Dream buy The 'BBQ Grill 300' gas barbecue (£3,349) blends in seamlessly with the 'Garden' outdoor sink (£1,938) and drinks trolley (£1,707) to create a stylish alfresco entertaining setup. All designed by Mats Broberg and Johan Ridderstråle for Röshults, Chaplins (chaplins.co.uk)

3 OF THE BEST TABLETOP GRILLS

From left 'Caliu Plus' by Bahi & Güell, £185, Caliu (caliu.eu). 'Joya', £120, Barbecook (barbecook.com). 'Mon Oncle' by Mermelada Estudio, £250, RS Barcelona (rs-barcelona.com)





CHIMENEAS

Compact enough to suit small courtyards, this traditional fireplace looks like a garden sculpture. Originating from Mexico, chimeneas were first produced using mud and clay, which was shaped to keep rain away from the flames. Families huddled around the chimenea for warmth, while food was cooked inside the distinctive 'potbelly' stove. Now, you are more likely to see robust cast-iron or steel varieties – both materials retain heat well. Safer than a fire pit, as the blaze is contained, with an elongated flue that directs fumes

upwards, these heaters are ideal for garden entertaining. It's best to use compressed 'heat logs' made from natural wood chippings for instant warmth (try Homefire's chimenea fuel, £10 for three bags, Creative Garden Ideas; creativegardenideas.co.uk). Apply high-temperature spray paint (La Hacienda, £10 for a can, White Stores; whitestores.co.uk) to keep your chimenea pristine and rust-free.

Dream buy The 'Kamino' cast-iron chimenea, £1,569, Morsø Living (morsolving.co.uk)

2 OF THE BEST CONTEMPORARY CHIMENEAS



From top 'Pharos' by Jos Muller for Harrie Leenders, £2,450, Robeys (robeys.co.uk). 'Colorado' by La Hacienda, £175, Debenhams (debenhams.com) ►



FIRE PITS

The perfect focal point for afternoon drinks or late-night soirées, a fire pit recreates the best bits of camping in your own back garden. Plus, it costs next to nothing to build your own. You'll first need to ensure that you don't live in an area that bans wood-burning fires. Also, consider the direction that the smoke will blow in and watch out for trees, fences or buildings that could catch alight. Once your safety checks are complete, dig a circular hole, around one-metre in diameter and 30 centimetres deep, in your garden and build a low wall around the circumference using fire-safe bricks. Leave a small gap between each brick to facilitate air circulation. Cover the bottom of the pit with quick-setting concrete, leaving a gentle dip in the middle to place your kindling

on. With a bit of creativity, the results can be beautiful. Take, for instance, this design (pictured above) by J Parker Landscapes created for Tatton Park in Cheshire, which has wraparound stone-and-copper seating.

Alternatively, if building your own fire pit sounds a little too much like hard work, you can buy a ready-made freestanding one. Modern stone and concrete designs, which can also work with gas, are heavy to move and can be pricey, but a rustic cast-iron bowl on a stand will do the job perfectly. It will weather over time, but that's part of its appeal, and upkeep requires little more than cleaning with hot water and a wire brush. Firepits UK sells antique Indian fire bowls and its own cast-iron collection of fire pits (firepitsuk.co.uk).

3 OF THE BEST READY-TO-LIGHT FIRE PITS



From top 'Qrater' by Dirk Wynants for Extremis, from £672, Coexistence (coexistence.co.uk). 'Axis' by La Hacienda, £119, John Lewis (johnlewis.com). Cast-iron pit, £297, House Doctor (housedoctor.dk) **ED**

PICTURE: NICOLA STOCKEN/TOMKINS [MAIN IMAGE]



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THE OUTDOOR HOTLIST

CLEVER KIT, EXPERT TIPS AND BEAUTIFUL BUYS FOR YOUR GARDEN

#1 OUTSIDE IN

Fill your home with indoor greenery to create a fresh, healthy environment ahead of the new season. By absorbing carbon dioxide, filtering volatile organic compounds and producing oxygen, leafy plants can combat all sorts of symptoms, ranging from drowsiness (a common side-effect of high carbon-dioxide levels) to dry skin (houseplants can increase humidity). Peace lilies, aloe vera and English ivy are three of the best plant varieties for the job.



PICTURE: CHRISTINA KAYSER ONISGAARD



#2

SHUTTER SOLUTIONS

A practical option for any home, external shutters filter light and increase privacy. Follow these tips from Nick Garratt, director of The New England Shutter Company, to ensure that you choose the right style for your room (thenewenglandshuttercompany.com).

- **Consider the climate** and how your shutters will weather in those conditions. I recommend using Western Red cedar as it's a material that improves with age.
- **If you decide to paint** your shutters, use an acrylic finish as it is water-resistant.
- **Our most popular style** is 'Soho' (£460 per square metre). Its modern, architectural aesthetic is really on-trend.

• **Different window frames suit different shutters.** Cafe-style shutters usually cover the lower half of a window and provide privacy while allowing light into the room, and full-height shutters are a good option for sash windows and French doors. Victorian bay windows will benefit from tier-on-tier versions, because this type allow the top and bottom panels to be opened independently.

• **Employ an experienced carpenter** to fit your shutters. Most companies, including us at The New England Shutter Company, offer a full installation service. *Pictured above: these striking shutters are part of Bar Tomate, designed by Sandra Tarruella interiors practice, in Mexico*

#3 OUR PICK OF THE BEST PLANTERS

Brighten up any garden, patio or balcony with these smart and colourful pots



'Lucille' hanging basket, £350, Llot Llov (llotllov.de). 'Tyssen' wire plant pot, £12, Habitat (habitat.co.uk). 'Feeling Pot Canvas' pot by Marie Michielssen, £25, Serax (serax.com)

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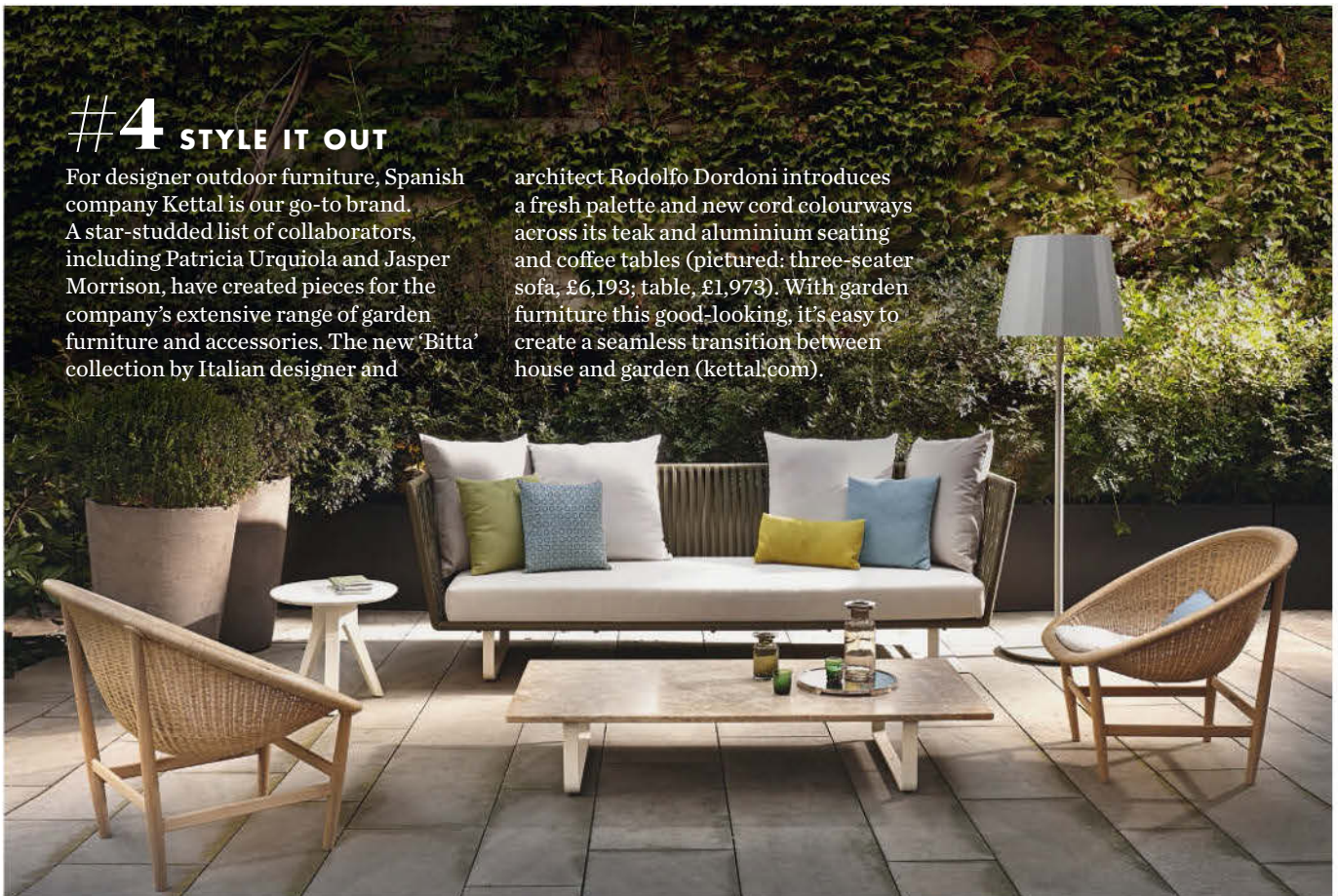
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#4 STYLE IT OUT

For designer outdoor furniture, Spanish company Kettal is our go-to brand. A star-studded list of collaborators, including Patricia Urquiola and Jasper Morrison, have created pieces for the company's extensive range of garden furniture and accessories. The new 'Bitta' collection by Italian designer and

architect Rodolfo Dordoni introduces a fresh palette and new cord colourways across its teak and aluminium seating and coffee tables (pictured: three-seater sofa, £6,193; table, £1,973). With garden furniture this good-looking, it's easy to create a seamless transition between house and garden (kettal.com).



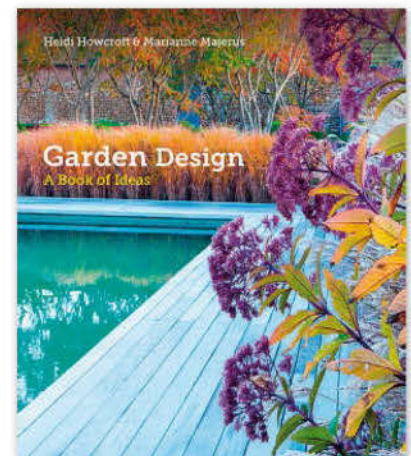
#5 AGAINST THE ELEMENTS

Garden furniture must be able to survive both rain and shine. Thankfully, many of the big fabric houses now produce water-repellent and UV-resistant fabrics ideal for outdoor use. Osborne & Little and Kirkby Design have vibrant new fabrics ideal for deck chairs and loungers (right). Belgian company Casalis has released its 'Bonnet' poufs in a yarn that is treated against mildew and colour-fading, while British brand Neptune has launched a range of water-repellent cushions in inky blues and grey.



Main image 'Terrazzo' outdoor fabric collection, £33 per m, Kirkby Design (kirkbydesign.com)

From left 'Bonnet' pouf by Casalis, £375, Studio 37 (studio37uk.com). 'Sheringham' cushion, £39, Neptune (neptune.com). 'Kerkyra' fabric, £63 per sqm, Osborne & Little (osborneandliddle.com)



#6 FRESH IDEAS

Heidi Howcroft's *Garden Design: A Book of Ideas* (Octopus, £30) is an essential sourcebook for both experienced gardeners and those picking up a spade for the first time. Filled with more than 600 inspiring images of projects ranging from compact urban gardens to rambling rural idylls, the book includes expert advice from landscape architect Howcroft on topics including how to assess your plot, choose the correct soil and pick the best location for your plants to flourish.



#7

GREEN SCREENS

Customise your garden as you would any open-plan interior and delineate an intimate seating area with these ingenious 'Abri' screen panels by Paola Lenti. Available in two heights and covered in the brand's signature water-repellent fabrics, they will protect you from spring breezes and provide shade from the sun. Each screen comes with pickets that you can hammer in – if you're positioning them in soft ground – to ensure that the screens stay exactly where you want them. From £1,400, The Modern Garden Company (modern.garden.co.uk).



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#8 EASY LIVING WALLS

Popularised by contemporary French botanist Patrick Blanc, living walls are a great way to create indoor gardens in even the smallest of spaces. Simple to install, they require very little maintenance other than dead-heading and occasional weeding.

From freestanding systems that have built-in water reservoir stands to ready-to-hang gardens (check out the 'Grass Mirror' planter by Jean-Jacques Hubert for Compagnie, £206, Made in Design; madeindesign.co.uk), there's plenty of choice. 'Ecopods' (pictured below) are the best quick-fix solution.

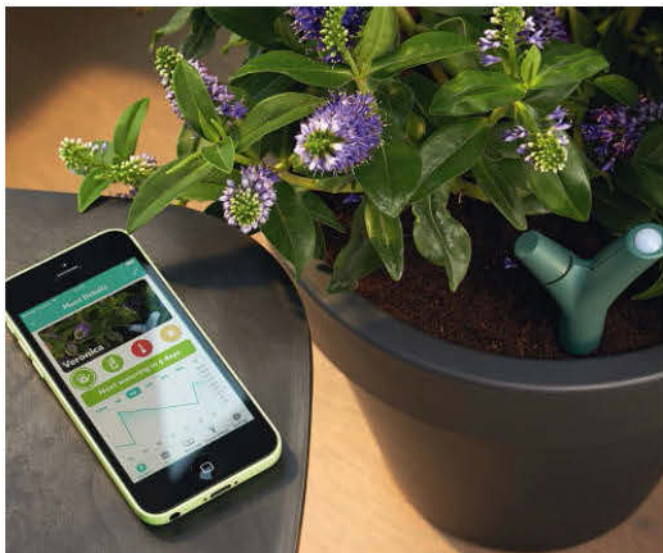
Equipped with adhesive strips, they're easy to secure to your wall or window (£14.95 for a pair; Genie Gadgets; geniegadgets.com). For something more impactful,

consider an 'Easiwall-Pro', made from vertical troughs attached to a back panel (£180 per square metre, Treebox; treebox.co.uk).



#9 THE CONNECTED GARDENER

You no longer need green fingers to be a successful gardener or to keep that treasured pot plant alive: all you require is a good Wi-Fi connection. Smart French tech brand Parrot's 'Flower Power' sensor (pictured left; £50) monitors the soil moisture, temperature and light level that your plant is exposed to, sharing its findings with a handy app that translates the information into smartphone alerts. Parrot has a database of 8,000 specimens, meaning that it knows exactly what conditions your plants require, informing you when to water and if you should place your pots nearer to the window. Later this year, the brand will be taking its horticultural know-how to new levels, creating the 'Parrot Pot', which will water your flowers for you based on its built-in sensor's recommendations. The pot's refillable reservoir will keep your plants in peak condition for a month at a time, meaning there should be no more excuses for drooping blooms (parrot.com).



PICTURE: FRED SIMON (THE CONNECTED GARDENER)



#10 DREAM WEAVES

Sporting hand-braided rope and cord detailing, these versatile pieces, which range from lounge chairs and sunbeds to modular sofas, have a summery look that is sure to suit any outdoor space and climate



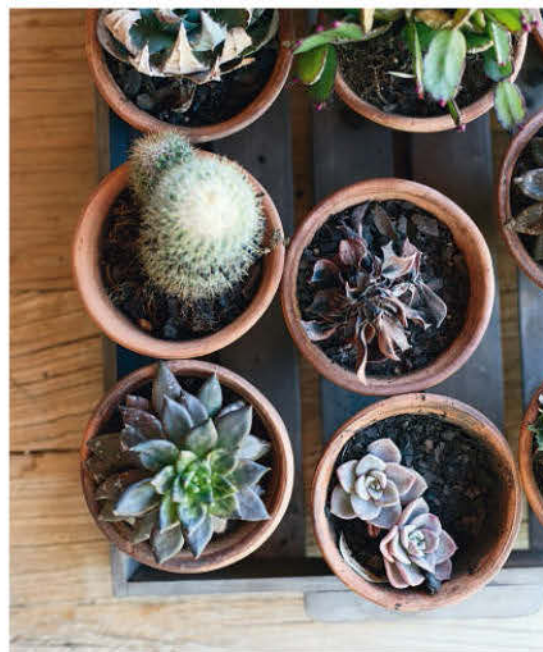
Main image Aston Cord' sofa, £8,940; daybed, £10,670, both by Rodolfo Dordoni, Minotti (minottilondon.com)

Above, from left 'Butterfly' tables by Patricia Urquiola, from £1,011 each, B&B Italia (beitalia.com). 'Unam' chair by Sebastian Herkner, from £277, Very Wood (verywood.it). 'Harp' lounge by Rodolfo Dordoni for Roda, £1,726, Summerhill + Co (furniturebysummerhillandco.co.uk).

#11 PLANT OF THE MOMENT **CACTUS**

Cropping up on everything from screen prints to cushion covers, cacti have overtaken the palm print as the design world's favourite plant. Here, Stephen Davies, indoor plants manager at London's Clifton Nurseries, which is designing the Royal Bank of Canada show garden for RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2015, offers his expert advice on caring for the succulent of the season (5A Clifton Villas, London W9; clifton.co.uk).

- **Cacti are a great plant option for garden novices** as they are very easy to grow. They thrive in a hot, dry climate so will happily live on a sunny windowsill, but with the right protection they can also thrive outside. Opuntia, a variety that is also known as 'Prickly Pear', have showy bright yellow flowers and are perfect for life outdoors.
- **Less is always more when it comes to watering.** Nourish cacti with plant food containing nitrogen and phosphorus every two weeks in spring; less in winter. The easiest way to gauge whether it's time to water a cactus is to stick your finger in the top centimetre of soil. If the soil is dry, go ahead and water.
- **Cacti need drainage to prevent their roots from rotting,** so always pot into a porous soil and use a pot that has drainage holes at the base. Add grit or gravel to the top of the compost to further aid the passage of water.
- **Get inspiration by visiting Kew Gardens** and RHS Garden Wisley's stunning glasshouse. Both venues will help you in choosing the species that you want to grow (kew.org; rhs.org.uk/gardens/wisley).



PICTURE: AUBREY JONSSON/TEANA SCHOEMAN/CAP INTERIORS/HOUSE AND LEISURE (CACTUS)

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#12 NURTURED BEAUTY

Gardening tools can be decorative as well as functional. Norwegian design firm Anderssen Voll has teamed up with Canadian lifestyle store Mjolk to create a beautiful collection that includes a copper-and-wood 'Min' watering can with a long spout for watering orchids (£245), and classic terracotta pots (from £110 each). There's also an ingenious glass 'Water Bulb' that filters fluid slowly through the soil over a prolonged period of time (£125), keeping your greenery healthy for longer (mjolk.ca).



#13

HOW TO... CREATE A TERRACE

Marc Foster, manager of Arbordeck & Trex, shares his secrets on building the perfect versatile patio or garden deck area (arbordeck.co.uk).

- **Most people have a sunny corner in their garden** that they naturally gravitate towards: turn that spot into a terrace and rest of the design will follow.
- **Consider how your decking will be used.** If it's primarily for adults, you can be more creative, opting for split levels and including freestanding planters. If you have children, you may want to add a sandpit or seats with built-in storage.
- **Climbers like clematis** are perfect for small spaces. If your neighbour has a fabulous tree, make the most of this vista.
- **The three main board types** to consider are softwood (the most competitively priced); hardwood like balau (naturally durable); and composite decking, which comes in a variety of colours and finishes.
- **Keep at least a five-millimetre gap** between each board end-to-end and a six-millimetre gap side-to-side to allow for drainage and airflow around the deck.
- **Treat your timber with a water-repelling preservative** solution and choose corrosion-resistant materials such as stainless steel for screw fixings.
- **Your deck will need care and attention;** oiling from time to time and washing down with a mild soap-and-water solution to help preserve it.
- **Most DIY enthusiasts could lay low-level decking,** but if you plan on creating split levels, employ a professional. The Timber Decking and Cladding Association has a list of installers on its website (tda.org.uk).



#14 HOT ON THE HIGH STREET

Whether your outdoor space is a high-rise balcony, a compact patio or a vast expanse in the countryside, updating your garden needn't cost the earth. The latest high-street outdoor furniture collections marry good design with pocket-friendly prices. Our pick of the season is John Lewis' 'Croft' range (pictured above), which features simple furniture and tactile accessories.

Pictured above 'Isley' dining table, £499; bench, £200; sofa, £399, all John Lewis (johnlewis.com)

#15

SOAK IN NATURE

For the ultimate alfresco experience, take your bathing rituals outside with the latest innovative products



Bathing in the sunshine is an indulgent, atmospheric experience whether you choose a refreshing shower or a relaxing dip in a hot tub. Swedish brand Røshults' sleek outdoor model (pictured above) is a striking metal structure that comes with a slatted teak shower tray and a rainfall-effect shower. It's easy to install and connects to a standard garden hose (£2,679, Lux Deco; luxdeco.com). Another designer option is Kos' minimalist 'Wazebo', an open shower cabin by Ludovica+Roberto Palomba that is fitted with a large rainfall showerhead. It can be positioned on any surface – pool-side or on the lawn (price to be announced; zucchettikos.com).

If you're more of a bath person, consider investing in a wood-fired hot tub – great for when the sun goes down. Clear Water Revival sells tubs by Størvatt, popular in the mountain chalets of the Alps (from £3,000; clear-water-revival.com) and Cambridge-based Bathing Under The Sky offers a selection of Swedish-style tubs (pictured right, approx £5,590; bathingunderthesky.com). The principle is highly appealing – crafted from Western Red cedar, which is extremely durable and resistant to decay, the tubs are heated by burning wood, replacing the sound of a standard hot-tub motor with the blissful crackle of a roaring fire. Plus, the warm bath water can be recycled straight onto the garden post-soak.





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#16 FRONT OF HOUSE

One of the easiest ways to refresh your exterior is to update your front door. Elizabeth Assaf of door design company Urban Front says: 'Your door needs to match your house, but in designing it you also have to consider security, function and weathering,' she says. If you're not looking to replace your door completely, a quick way to give it a boost is to add a creative door knocker, handle or mailbox. Simple or whimsical, it's up to you (urbanfront.co.uk).



From left 'NCC1042' door handle, £318, FB & JD Beardmore (beardmore.co.uk). 'Woodpecker' knocker, £34, Anthropologie (anthropologie.eu). 'Gibson' mailbox by Bold MFG, £185, Etsy (etsy.com)



#18 THE SHOP W6 GARDEN CENTRE, LONDON

This fresh-thinking garden centre sells unusual furniture, plants and pots. It also prepares and serves local produce in its idyllic cafe.

Who owns it? In 1998, gardener Beryl Henderson decided to take a risk and open her own garden centre in a quiet, leafy corner of West London. The gamble paid off; today, W6 is renowned for selling a fantastic selection of plants from specialist British growers.

What does it sell? Everything from Mediterranean plants, cacti compost, succulents and air plants to garden furniture by Alexander Rose.

Why do shoppers love it? For the inspiring creative displays, the wealth of plants on sale and the customer service – W6's dedicated team run gardening courses, offer tips on how to propagate certain plants and can help you recreate an idea that you spotted elsewhere. What's more, each plant comes with a two-year guarantee.

Anything else? W6 takes a holistic approach to gardening, viewing it as a way of bettering your quality of life. Book readings, outdoor plays and courses are all held within its verdant surroundings. Check the website for upcoming events. 17 Ravenscourt Avenue, London W6 (w6gardencentre.co.uk)



#17 URBAN GARDEN ESSENTIALS COOL KIT, COURSES AND MORE

SEED BOMBS

The guerilla gardener's best friend, seed bombs are essentially 'green grenades' – simply soak in water, drop on to the soil and watch a drab corner of your garden come to life. Available in many styles, the most popular being Kabloom (£2.95 each; kabloomshop.co.uk), they're made from recycled materials that biodegrade into the environment, leaving only flowers behind.

WILDFLOWER TURF

The perfect way to create an instant natural habitat, wildflower turf (pictured) is free from weeds and quick to lay. Used by architects looking to create 'living' flat-roofs, the turf is a mix of half grass and half flower seeds (with more than 34 different wildflower species present), it creates the ideal habitat for butterflies and other insects. From £14 per square metre (wildflowerturf.co.uk).

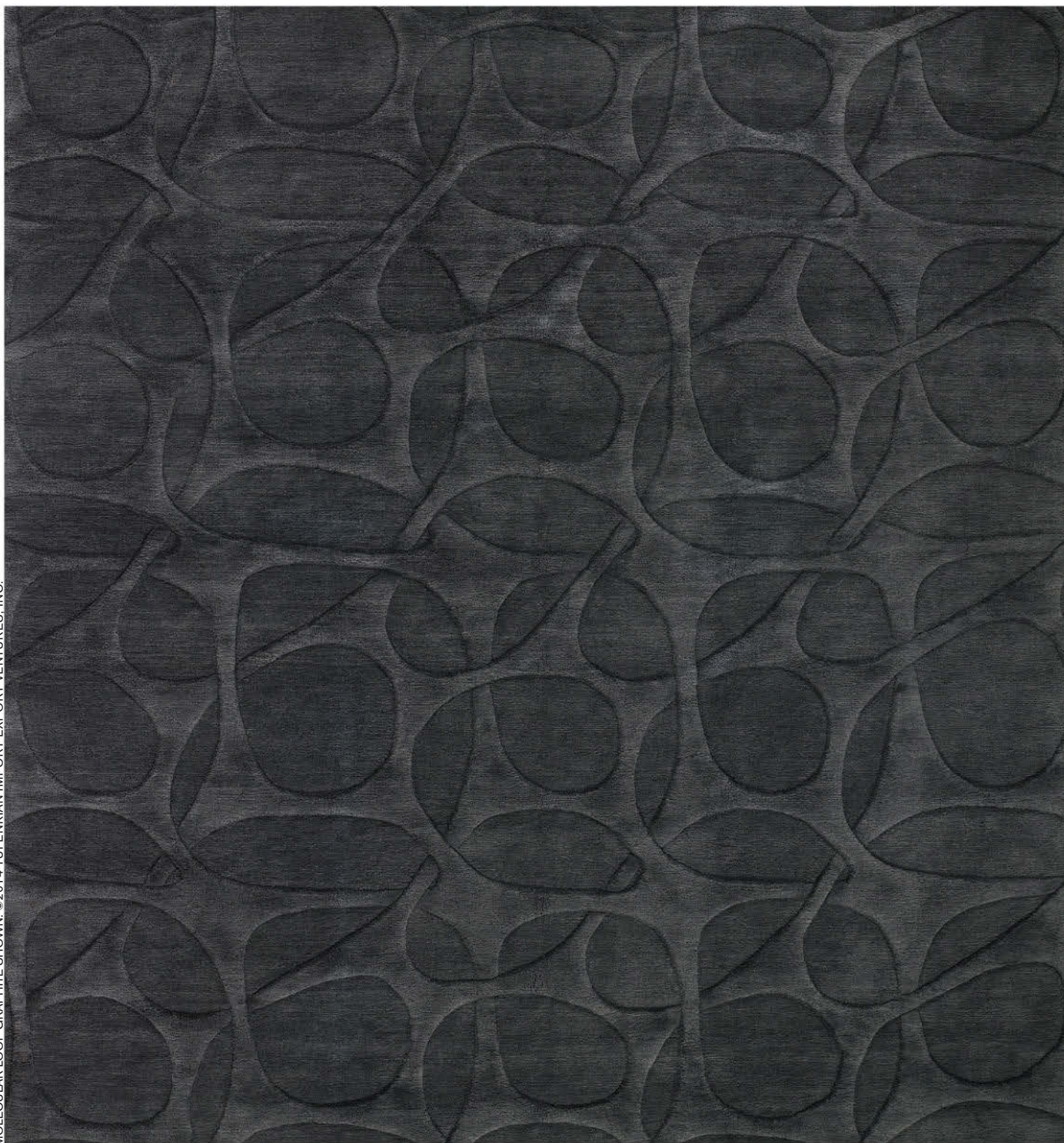
DESIGN ADVICE

Urban ecologist Dusty Gedge has been involved in the creation of green roofs the world over. His website gives practical design advice alongside details of upcoming events, seminars and training courses (livingroofs.org). Meanwhile, design outfit City Leaf offers consultations on creating edible gardens in small spaces (cityleaf.co.uk).

THE GOOD LIFE

Former River Cottage Canteen chef Mark Lloyd is a wild-food enthusiast who runs foraging days in the countryside from as little as £50 per person (realmarklloyd.co.uk). Also worth a look is Omlet (omlet.co.uk), which has a list of nationwide courses on keeping pigs, bees and chickens, and sells beautiful bee-houses and chicken coops.

MOLECULAR LOOP GRAPHITE SHOWN. ©2014 TUFENKIAN IMPORT EXPORT VENTURES, INC.



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#19

THE GREEN LIGHT

Lighting is as important outside as it is inside your home. Follow these simple tips from Sally Storey, design director at John Cullen Lighting, to illuminate your garden (johncullenlighting.co.uk)

- **Layer lighting in the garden** as you would in the house. Use spotlights to draw attention to key features such as sculptures, and opt for floodlights to offer a broader wash of light across a path.
- **Consider how your set-up will look from all vantage points**, especially from different levels in a house. It's a good idea to use a dimmer switch to control lighting that is near your home, so that you can create a seamless indoor/outdoor transition.
- **When entertaining, combine candles, flares and fire bowls** and drape strings of lanterns across trees to create an atmospheric blanket of light.
- **Simple tricks such as illuminating a tree** at the end of the garden, can add a sense of perspective.
- **Freestanding lamps can transform** outside seating areas into attractive 'garden rooms'. There's a huge variety of weatherproof designs available, from the traditional to the very modern.
- **A little light will go a long way at night**, so you only need one-watt LED bulbs to pick out your favourite plants or other focal points.
- **In small spaces, try lighting a window box** or placing a few spiked spotlights around the perimeter to make your garden feel larger.
- **Products with ground spikes offer versatility**. You can move them as you change your space around.
- **Use green metal or dark fittings** as they blend in with your plants, so are not easy to spot during the day. Copper fittings are also good as they develop a verdigris patina with time
- **Whatever the lighting, work with a qualified electrician** so that all connections are properly sealed and waterproofed.



From top 'XL 217 Outdoor' light by La Lampe Gras, £820, DCW Editions (dcw-editions.fr). 'Freedom' floor light by Massimiliano Raggi, £560, Keir Townsend (keirtownsend.com). 'Hue Go' lamp by Philips, £79.99, John Lewis (johnlewis.com)



#20 HOT HOUSES

The trend for greenhouses is big right now, but you don't need a large garden to take part. With many smaller versions now on offer, all that's required is a sunny windowsill or balcony. The extra protection offered by growing under glass means you'll have more plant options than if you were relying on the British climate alone.

Manufactum's glass-and-pinewood balcony greenhouse (pictured bottom, £1,049; manufactum.co.uk) is easy to assemble and comes with three modular shelves. For something on an even smaller scale, the 'Grow' mini greenhouse by Caroline Wetterling for Design House Stockholm (pictured top right, £30, Selfridges; selfridges.com) acts as an incubator for the first stages of a plant's life. The bottom half of the system holds the plant and soil, while the top has a spout that regulates the moisture and temperature levels inside the pot. Finally, if you're looking for the perfect herb garden, LED lighting company Bulbo's 'Quadra' grow lamps (top left, £149, Really Well Made; reallywellmade.co.uk) reproduce the optimal light levels required for a vegetable garden to thrive, so that you can grow your own in any corner of your home.



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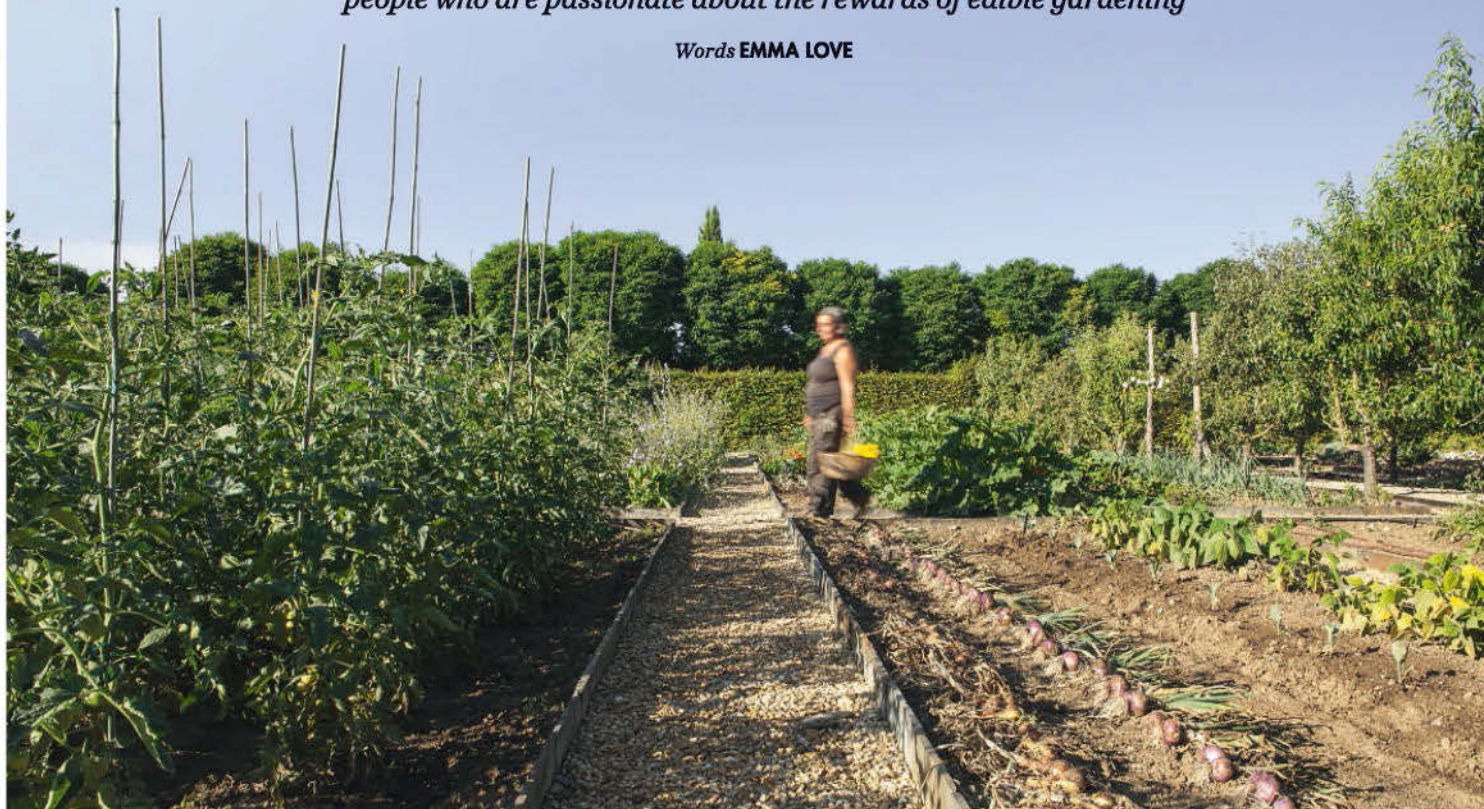
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EAT WHAT YOU SOW

According to a study for the City of London, almost one third of British adults are growing their own fruit and veg. We talk to four people who are passionate about the rewards of edible gardening

Words EMMA LOVE



JEANETTE AND CLAUD THOTTRUP

Husband-and-wife team Jeanette and Claus Thottrup co-own Borgo Santo Pietro, a gorgeous hotel in the Tuscan countryside. Food grown in the hotel's garden goes straight into the kitchen and onto guests' plates. Plus, the plots also supplies the couple's Michelin-starred restaurant Borgo Santo Pietro in Florence.



Run by Jeanette and Claus Thottrup, Borgo Santo Pietro is a hotel in Tuscany: at its heart is an organic farm, where the team grows fruit and vegetables

What do you grow at the hotel? The things that we need most: tomatoes, carrots, onions, leeks, potatoes, squash, peppers and, of course, garlic. We also have chickens for eggs, bees that produce honey, an orchard and a herb garden.

What's in the orchard? 400 apple trees. We partnered with Pershore College in Warwickshire, which makes its own 'Avonbank' apple juice, to see if we could produce something that Italians would be happy to drink. Students from the college took soil samples to determine what nourishment the soil would require to make growing the trees possible. Now, we produce Royal Gala apples.

Is there anything that you've found difficult to grow? Every year we experiment with something new. Recently, we tried growing watermelons: we're



not really in the right location to produce them, but we discovered that we can create mini ones.

Why is it important for hotels and restaurants to grow their own food? So often when you go to hotels, you don't know what you're eating. Our whole concept is transparency: guests can see how the florist arranges our flowers and chat with the head gardener, Jonny Norton, who used to work at Babington House in Somerset. Guests know that they are going to be taken care of and part of that is not worrying about what they are going to eat. They know that everything is grown here in the best way possible (@BSPtuscany; borgosantopietro.com). ➤



TOM MOGGACH

Founder of City Leaf, a company that offers training in how to grow food, Tom Moggach is also a part-time primary-school teacher in Camden, and looks after his school's edible garden. Plus, he's the author of *The Urban Kitchen Gardener: Growing and Cooking in the City* (£16.99, Kyle Books).

How does City Leaf work with chefs? Recently I helped chef Stevie Parle, a keen gardener who runs restaurants Dock Kitchen and Rotorino, to revamp his garden, planting new varieties of vegetables to introduce different flavours into his cooking. We also set up Jamie Oliver's Kitchen Garden Project, which encourages schools to grow and cook food.

How do you get children interested in edible plants? The school that I teach at has just acquired a big wood-fired oven, so now we can cook flatbreads and pizzas and top them with ingredients straight

'There's no point in growing your own onions when they're sold so cheaply. Go for offbeat things like Japanese shiso'

from the plot. It's a great hands-on way to turn garden produce into tasty food on the spot.

Why does it make sense to grow your own? It's the best way to bring a few moments of relaxation into city lives. If you can have a riot of colour on your balcony with plants such as cascading *nasturtium* (flowering watercress), which you can pluck and strew over your salad, you get the best of both worlds.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to get started? Write a list of what you love. Prioritise the plants that are hard to find, or expensive to buy, in the shops. There's no point in growing onions when they're sold so cheaply: go for herbs such as lemon verbena, or something offbeat like Japanese shiso. Grow salads that you can snip straight into a bowl: they'll easily trump the supermarket versions (@Tom_Moggach; cityleaf.co.uk).



Journalist, author, keen gardener and part-time teacher Tom Moggach has written a book on the subject of urban gardening and founded City Leaf, an organisation that collaborates with schools, community projects and restaurants to provide training in growing produce ►

PICTURES: LAURA HYND



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LAURI KRANZ

Singer-songwriter Lauri Kranz is founder of Edible Gardens LA, an organisation that creates vegetable plots around Los Angeles for everyone from chefs to the LA County Museum of Art. She has also hosted concerts featuring nature-inspired playlists in gardens across the city.

What is your favourite crop? In the winter, there's an abundance of leafy greens such as kale and Swiss chard because as you harvest it, it keeps growing. In the summer, I'm inspired by interesting varieties of tomato and aubergine.

What's your starting point when you design an edible garden? Every garden is unique because every home is unique. I walk around the space and take into account how it's used: if an area that gets the most sun is also where the children play, then it may not be right to plant there. It's important to determine how a garden serves a person's lifestyle. I ask clients what they eat the most of and give them a list of what's in season. For some I only do the initial planting; for others I tend the plants and harvest them so that

'There's an abundance of leafy greens around in winter, while in the summer I love growing aubergines and tomatoes'

the owners have a basket of herbs and vegetables waiting for them when they get home.

How did the series of garden concerts come about? I met DJ Anne Litt, who works for a local radio station, through a shared love of gardening. We wanted to encourage people to grow their own food, so we decided to put on concerts in private gardens. Moby played at the first one. The next step is to hold events in bigger public gardens.

What advice would you give to someone who wants to get started? Begin with something that feels manageable, even if it's just a couple of pots of tomatoes and basil. From there you can build up gradually. The first year is all about learning what grows well with the light and soil that you have (@ediblegardensla; ediblegardensla.com). **ED**

Lauri Kranz plants edible gardens for residential, commercial and community projects around Los Angeles



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DOWN THE GARDEN PATH

Working from a garden studio is a time-honoured tradition – George Bernard Shaw, Roald Dahl and Virginia Woolf all had their own secluded cabins. Here, we find out how to get a modern-day equivalent

Words **SARAH MORGAN**



MORE THAN FOUR MILLION PEOPLE in the UK work from home according to the Office for National Statistics. In an age of rising travel- and office-rent costs, there are financial incentives to becoming a 'shedworker' (a term coined by journalist Alex Johnson, who runs the blog *Shedworking*) as well as the draw of optimising your time while separating work from home. Here's everything you need to know to get started.

How do I build a shed studio? There are surprisingly few hoops to jump through to install one, especially when compared to extending a home. Planning permission is only required if you want to build a structure higher than 2.5 metres, or one that covers more than half of your garden's area (check the Planning Portal for details; planningportal.gov.uk) and most companies offer installation services. **I'd prefer to buy a ready-made shed.** **What designs are there?** In terms of shape and style, there are countless pre-fab options out there that are quick to install and don't cost the earth. The strikingly simple model pictured above is 'Cottage No1' by Filippo Pisan for De Castelli. Its angular, irregular shape is reminiscent of a classic lean-to, and it can be installed with full electrics (from £5,000; decastelli.com).



What if I want to design my own? Chris Hodge, owner of shed-building company Shackadelic, knows that everyone has different requirements. 'A recent client wanted a shed that had two offices, one for herself and one for her husband, and a playroom for their children – so we created a U-shaped shack for them,' he says. 'Skylights are also a popular request. People like to flood their sheds with natural light and to hold onto that outdoor feel.' Hodge raises a good point – ask yourself whether

you want your studio to blend into your garden, or to stand out from it. Sedum roofs, cedar-shingle cladding – which ages beautifully – or well-worn timber are elements that can camouflage a structure amongst greenery (full service starts from £7,500; shackadelic.co.uk).

What about the interior? As with any compact space, the key to decorating a shed studio is in maximising light, space and convenience. A white-based colour is an obvious choice for walls, although darker shades create depth and a cosy atmosphere. Using slim storage will also form the illusion of more space, and don't forget about sockets and switches. For further shed interiors inspiration, look to Sally Coulthard's new book, *Shed Decor: How to Decorate and Furnish your Home* (pictured inset; Jacqui Small, £16.50).



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THIS MONTH'S HOT COLOUR...

INDIAN YELLOW is an exotic, sunny, welcoming shade that's perfect for warmer nights and longer days. Over the next six pages, we delve into its history and show you some inspiring ways to work it in your home.

PICTURE: BRIAN WEHRUNG

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INDIAN YELLOW *THE HISTORY*

*We discover the controversial
origins of this exotic colour
and explore ways that you
can use it in your own home*

Words **KASSIA ST CLAIR**



A MYSTERIOUS DAFFODIL YELLOW PIGMENT found its way onto artists' canvases between the 15th and the 19th centuries. It was favoured first in India, then, during the colonial era, in the Netherlands and Britain. Johannes Vermeer used it to suffuse his paintings with soft, golden light. Others were more cautious: while the pigment retained its colour perfectly in direct sunlight, it would fade if left in the gloom. Another oddity was that no one seemed to know what this paint was made from. 'Indian yellow,' *The New Pocket Cyclopaedia* of 1813 ventured rather coyly, '[is] said to be an animal secretion'. Chemist George Field's *Chromatography*, published two decades later, was similarly fuzzy on the details of the colour's origins. '[It] is produced from the urine of the camel,' he asserts, before hedging his bets by adding that it might also come from 'the buffalo or the Indian cow'.

It wasn't just the hue that led people to suspect that this pigment contained barnyard ingredients. It arrived into Europe's ports in the form of dusty chocolate brown nuggets with yolk-bright interiors that exuded a strong ammoniac whiff of cow pee. Further strengthening the anecdotal evidence was the fact that another popular



Milkmen in Bengal were responsible for producing the yellow that had glazed the blouse of Vermeer's milkmaid

yellow shade used by artists at the time was known to be produced using the gallstones of oxen.

Finally, in 1883, it seemed as if the mystery of Indian yellow had been solved. Sir Joseph Hooker, the director of Kew Gardens, a distinguished explorer and the owner of a magnificent pair of upswept eyebrows, commissioned Trailokya Nath Mukharji to seek out the origins of the colour. A letter duly appeared in the November 23 issue of the *Journal of the Society for Arts* announcing that he had tracked the elusive nuggets of pigment to their source: a village called Mirzapur in Bengal, India. There he had found the *gwalas* (milkmen) responsible for the yellow that had glazed the blouse of Vermeer's milkmaid (pictured)



in 1658. These men fed their herds excessive quantities of mango leaves and water. The cattle's urine, he reported, 'is collected during the day in small pots, and in the evening put over the fire in earthen vessels'. Once boiled down, it was strained through a cloth and rolled into balls, which were first dried on charcoal fires and then in the sun. European paint-buyers were horrified by the practice. Something had to be done to alleviate the daily plight of these poor cows; laws were duly passed, and within one generation the use of Indian yellow had all but ceased.

And there the story would have ended were it not for Victoria Finlay, a British writer who decided to retrace Mukharji's footsteps in 2004. When she arrived in Mirzapur, the locals were astounded. They had never heard of Indian yellow or, indeed, mango leaf-eating cows. Stranger still, none of the contemporary records – and British officials kept exacting notes – made any mention of the practice. Had the mysterious researcher been poking fun at his gullible colonial overlords? Perhaps. However, Mukharji was no anonymous prankster. He was a respected civil servant and curator from Calcutta who went on to become an official at various international exhibitions, working closely with leading British botanists. In 1883, as a highly ambitious 36-year-old, he would have been eager to impress someone as prestigious as Sir Joseph Hooker. Also, he corroborated his account by sending a vial of the offending urine, one of the earthenware pots and a small ball of Indian yellow pigment purchased in Mirzapur to Kew Gardens. Sure enough, while the urine and pot have vanished, Kew's archive still contains one of those dusty brown balls. Maybe it is safest to assume, until further evidence comes to light, that there's more to this curious tale than someone taking the piss. ➤

INDIAN YELLOW IN THE HOME

*Use this vibrant colour as an accent hue
to add a splash of sunshine in any room*





For extra impact, use this bold shade in unexpected places, such as on internal doors or windowsills



INDIAN YELLOW IS A SPICY, EXOTIC SHADE that is best partnered with more neutral colours, such as white or grey. For extra impact, use it as a statement accent in unexpected places to create zingy curtain drapes, bright internal doors and windowsills, or as a striking floor covering – a mustard-hued rug creates a luxurious golden glow. Alternatively, for an effect that's sure to make mornings more cheerful, why not consider yellow for your bedlinens? Turn the page to see the suggested paints, prints and fabrics in our Indian yellow moodboard. ➤

PICTURES: ANDREAS VON EISENDEL (CURTAIN IMAGE), MARKUS UNDERTH (DOOR IMAGE), SISTERS AGENCY / BIRGITTA VOITGANG DREIER (MAIN IMAGE), GREG COX / SVEN ALBERING / GAP INTERIORS (LIVING ROOM)

INDIAN YELLOW

THE MOODBOARD

Get the look, with our edit of the best fabrics, paints and accessories in this sunniest of shades

Compiled by **EMMA KAY**



1 'Alloy' fabric, £121 per m, Maharam (maharam.com)

2 'Plain Yellow' fabric, £1,125 per sq m, Vanderhurd (vanderhurd.co.uk)

3 'Black Dust' Douglas fir floorboards, £90 per sq m, Dinesen (dinesen.com)

4 'Velvet Ribbon' fabric, 22mm wide, £2.30 per m, VV Rouleaux (vvrouleaux.com)

5 'Bogie' fabric, £138 per m, Rubelli (rubelli.com)

6 'Steelcut Trio 2' fabric by Bijkmeijer & Ridolfo, £133 per m, Kvadrat (kvadrat.dk)

7 'Bodega Negra' oak flooring, £115 per sq m, Victoria Wood Works (victoriawoodworks.co.uk)

8 'Doge' fabric by Brochier, £130 per m, Altfield (altfield.com)

9 'Une Lumiere Bienfaisante' wallpaper, £145.60 per roll, Élitis (elitis.fr)

10 'Papunya' fabric, £122.40 per m, Pierre Frey (pierrefrey.com)

11 'Giallo Crackle Glaze' tile, £48 per sq m, Mandarin Stone (mandarinstone.com)

12 Cushion, £45, Habitat (habitat.co.uk)

13 'Cinquante Coupole' textile wallcovering, £132.50 per m, Casamance (casamance.com)

14 Yellow silk, £39 per sq m, Broadwick Silks (broadwicksilks.com)

15 'Blocking' fabric, £65 per m, GP & J Baker (gpandjbaker.com)

16 'Harry' sofa by Eric Jourdan, £2,663, Ligne Roset (ligne-roset.co.uk)

17 'Koom' vase, £310, by Les Guimards, Darkroom (darkroomlondon.com)





17

16



'Linseed' low-sheen emulsion, £42 for 2.5l, Konig Colours (konigcolours.co.uk)



'Sundust' matt emulsion, £24.50 for 2.5l, Dulux (dulux.co.uk)



'Buttercup' matt emulsion, £41.63 for 5l, Ecos Paints (ecospaints.com)



'Aconite Yellow' matt emulsion, £35.50 for 2.5l, Fired Earth (firedearth.com) **ED**

PICTURES: 3 OBJECTIVES | PALETTE, FABRICS, PAINT

13

14

15

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SPRING HAS SPRUNG

Give your interior a seasonal uplift with Venetian textile firm Rubelli's vibrant new fabrics. This punchy 'Mirafiore' floral-print cotton, based on one of the company's archive patterns, works well as upholstery or a statement wall hanging. Team with 'Mirage' in yellow and 'Tatlin' in green for a sunny scheme.



Fabrics, from top 'Mirafiore' cotton, £174 per metre; 'Mirage' cotton-mix fabric, £143 per metre; 'Tatlin' polyester, £163 per metre, all Rubelli (rubelli.com)

Try it now Ever wished that you could test out an artwork in your home before you commit to purchasing it? Visit *Rise Art*, an ingenious online outfit that sells and rents affordable contemporary artworks. Rental prices start from just £25 per month and you can even take a quiz to help the company find out more about your personal taste (riseart.com).



HANG TIGHT

The '114B' wall-hung birch shelf and drawer system is the perfect storage solution for a compact hallway. Designed by Alvar Aalto for Finnish company Artek in 1936, the newly reissued classic does double-duty as a telephone table. Alternatively, install it by your bed as a space-saving nightstand. £398 (artek.fi).

PICTURE: STUDIO 33 [SPRING HAS SPRUNG, SWATCHES]



LIGHTBULB MOMENT

Extend the mood lighting concept to your bathroom with Aqualisa's high-tech 'Lumi' electric shower. The sleek mirrored-glass control panel is fitted with LED lights – choose between soft, relaxing effects and the bright wake-up illumination that's ideal for mornings. £430 (aqualisa.com).



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BIJOU BATHROOMS

Love soaking in a luxuriously deep bath but don't have the space for a full-size tub in your home? We've found our top three designs for small bathrooms: from Japanese-style wooden models (or *ofuro*) to classic white options, they may be shorter than the average bath but they are no less stylish. Team with space-saving wall-mounted taps in classic, minimalist styles to make even the most compact bathing area look fabulous.



'2111C' mixer, £986,
Vola (vola.com)



'Amox' wall-mounted mixer,
£265, Aston Matthews
(astonmatthews.co.uk)



'Ocean' tap, £301,
CP Hart (cphart.com)



'Calyx 1230' tub, £1,250,
Cabuchon (cabuchon.com)



'Yutori' tub by Iacopo Torrini,
£2,209, Bartok Design
(bartokdesign.com)



'Dual My-Water' tub
by Romano Adolini, £2,893,
Colacril (colacril.it)



PATCHWORK PAPERS

Mix and match colourful graphic wallpapers to create a unique collage-style effect on your walls. Brighton-based designer Jacqueline Seifert's India-inspired 'Kerala' papers are perfect for working the patchwork look. £125 for a ten-metre roll (jacqueline-seifert.com).

THE HOT SEAT

Folding chairs are useful additions to any home, and deserve as much consideration as your more permanent fixtures. By Lassen's 'Saxe' design, created by Danish architect Mogens Lassen in the 1950s, is a stylish option. Made from oak, leather and brass, it looks elegant both positioned by a dining table or folded against the wall when not in use. £1,099 (bylassen.com).



ARTFUL LIGHTING

The right lighting is essential to display paintings and objets d'art. Vaughan's brass uplighters are a fuss-free way to illuminate your treasures. 'Curtis' cube uplighter, £198 (vaughandesigns.com).

PICTURES: ANDERS HVID (THE HOT SEAT), ACCOOPER (ARTFUL LIGHTING)

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DISAPPEARING ACT

An easy way to disguise practical shelving is by painting it in the exact same shade as your walls – this charcoal grey is perfect for a contemporary workspace (try 'Top Hat' from Fired Earth, £35.50 per 2.5 litres; firedearth.com). Glimpsed from a distance, the shelves are cleverly camouflaged against the backdrop and your artworks and books will appear to float above your desk.



MAGIC CARPET TILES

Create the illusion of a large Moroccan-inspired rug using Bisazza's new 'Fregi' tiles, part of the 'Contemporary Cement Tiles' collection. Placed in a hallway or in the centre of a room, these classical border tiles with beautiful geometric patterns make a striking focal point that draws the eye. If you crave a floorcovering with a more modern design, then you are in luck. The collection also includes ranges by Paola Navone, Jamie Hayón and Carlo Dal Bianco, each of which can be combined to create your own graphic composition. From £36 per metre (bisazza.com).

PICTURE: SOFISYFONTE [DISAPPEARING ACT]

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GRASS ROOTS DESIGN

Combined furniture solutions are a hot tip for saving space. This pale-oak 'Botanic Storage' unit by Danish designer Kristina Dam features a sliding top that conceals a plant pot. As well as creating a home for your foliage, it's also a handy place to store all manner of household ephemera. £732 (kristinadam.dk).



RISE AND FALL

Adjust the ambience of your room for any occasion with the clever 'Lloop' pendant light by Ontwerpduo and Vij5. It has a six-metre-long cable with a wooden toggle, so it's easy to fix at the height you want. £279, Iconic Dutch (iconicdutch.com).

Shop it now Caravane, one of our favourite French brands, has launched a new online shop to celebrate its 20th anniversary, so now you can buy its wares without hopping on to the Eurostar. We especially love its 'Velours Lavé' sofa-covers and velvet throws, which come in colours ranging from blush to paprika (caravane.fr).

5 OF THE BEST SLIM STORAGE UNITS

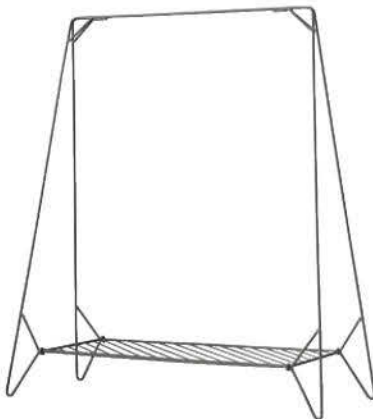
Make the most of every inch of your home with space-saving rails, handy hooks and clever dual-purpose designs



'Branch' wall-mounted rack, £129, Authentics (authentics.com)



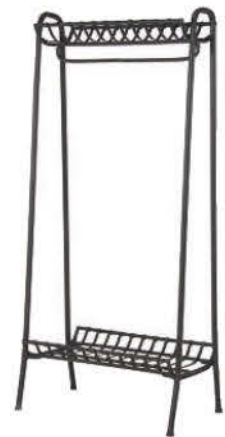
'Cubist' wall shelf, £40, Umbra (umbra.com)



'Anker' folding rail by Anker Studio, £179, Menu (menu.as)



'Push' wardrobe/mirror/shelf unit by Skagerak, £525, Skandium (skandium.com)



Cast-iron clothes rail, £240, Cox & Cox (coxandcox.co.uk)

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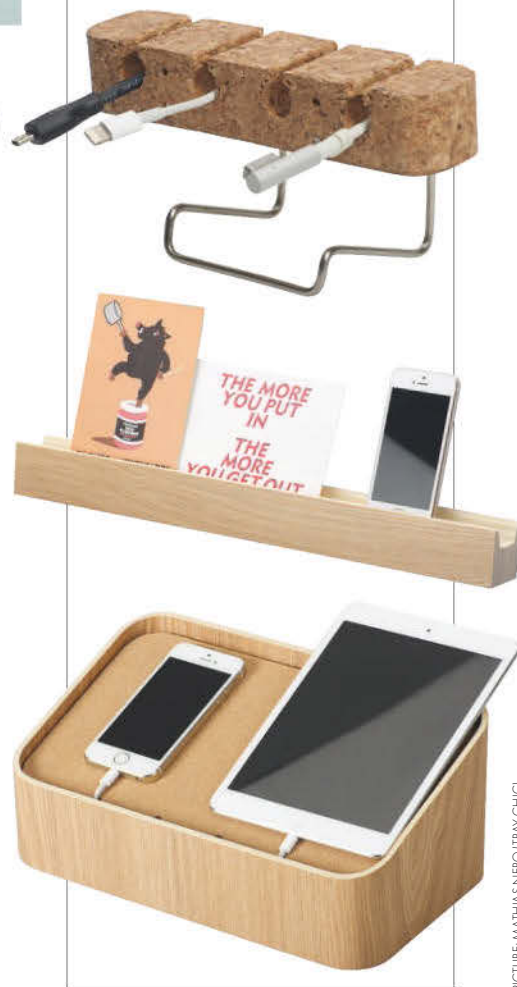
Stow valuables in the deep tops of these practical ash-veneer 'Bowl' tables by Swedish brand Fogia. The clever furniture range by Norwegian designer Andreas Engesvik offers the ideal place to hide stray remotes or surface clutter. Small, £385; large, £462 (fogia.se).



ACTION STATIONS

For ultra-stylish home-office storage and stationery, look no further than Sebastian Conran's new collection for his design brand Universal Expert. Focusing on natural materials, the collection includes slimline ash-plywood shelves, a handy cable organiser made from cork and an ingenious wood-and-cork charging station.

From top cork 'Cable Collector', £15; large ash-plywood shelf, £45; 'Multi Dock' ash-plywood and cork charging station, £45, all Universal Expert (universalexpert.co.uk)



MORRIS MINOR

Add some natural splendour to your home with this woodland fabric, based on a tapestry by the Arts and Crafts designer John Henry Dearle, a protégé of William Morris. The art-inspired design is available as a wallpaper, a fabric, or a wide-width panel and comes in two colours. 'The Brook' linen, £70 per metre, Morris & Co (william-morris.co.uk).



BORDER LINES

Window frames don't have to be white or grey – historic British brand Crittall now offers its classic steel-framed designs in 46 colours. Plus, its dual-colour option allows you to choose different shades for inside and out. From £407 for a window (crittall-windows.com).

THIS PICTURE, DESIGN SORRENTO, COLOUR SLATE

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THE VELVETEEN HABIT

Velvet upholstery is everywhere, from Italian brand Meridiani's new collection of high-backed 'Keaton' seating by Andrea Parisio (above; sofa, £3,190; armchair, from £1,870; meridiani.it) to high-street stalwart Habitat's 'Abel' orange model and Graham & Green's offering (below). Want to get the look on a smaller scale? Use Kerry Joyce's new cotton-cashmere fabrics (left) to create scatter cushions, luxurious curtains, or to update an existing piece of furniture. They come in eight colours, ranging from soft 'Buttercream' to 'Night Shadow' (£190 per metre, Redloh House Fabrics; redlohousefabrics.co.uk).



'Abel' velvet three-seater sofa, £1,300, Habitat (habitat.co.uk)



'Deep Dream' sofa in Mink Velvet, from £1,695, Graham & Green (grahamandgreen.co.uk)



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TIMING IS EVERYTHING

The 'Activité Pop' by French brand Withings is a super-simple take on the must-have wearable of 2015. It resembles a Swiss watch, complete with a Dieter Rams-esque analogue face and colourful, interchangeable silicone straps. Concealed beneath the watch face, however, are the workings of a fully-functional fitness tracker capable of monitoring sleep quality, steps taken and calories burned. It runs on a standard watch battery (meaning no nightly charging ritual is required) and is water-resistant. Download the iOS app and you can view detailed fitness data. Alternatively, a quick glance at the watch's secondary dial provides an instant update on your progress. £119 (withings.com).



PURE INVENTION

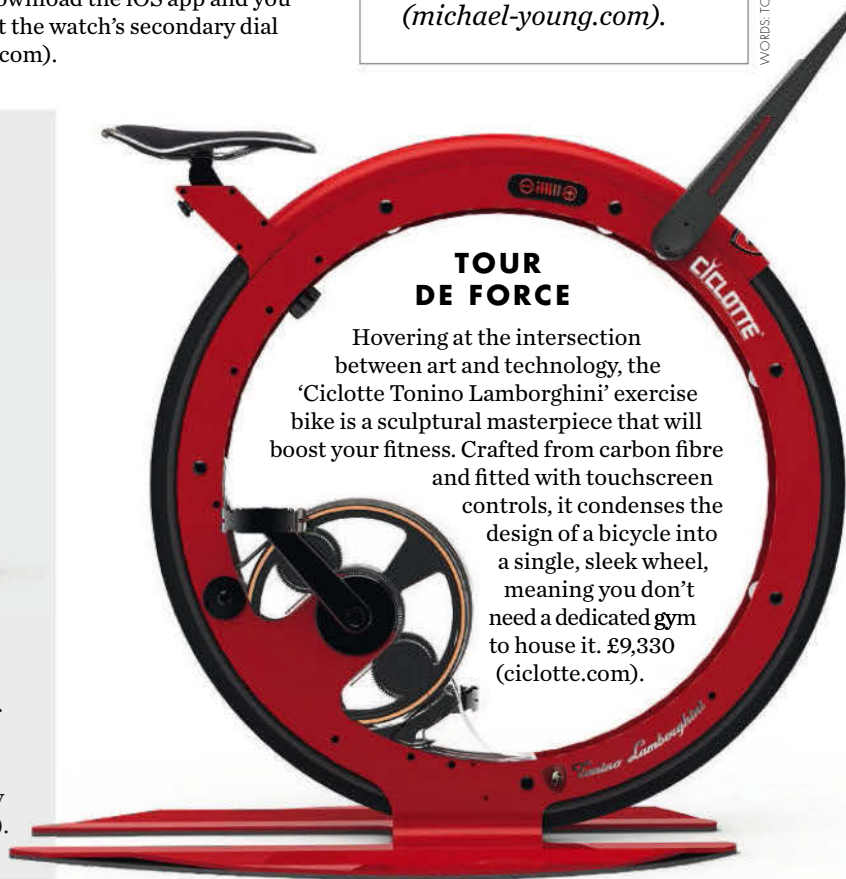
Designer Michael Young has reinvented the water purifier. His 'Diamond Water Coral Mini' has six filters, ranging from ceramic to infrared, that extract chemicals and increase oxygen levels to improve the taste of tap water. From £498 (michael-young.com).

WORDS: TOM BAILEY



LEARNING CURVE

Intrigued by the immersive entertainment value of a curved television, but don't want it to dominate your room? LG's 77-inch '77EG9900' TV can transform from a flatscreen into a curved design with the wave of a wand-shaped remote control, thus offering the very best of both worlds. Available at Harrods (harrods.com).



TOUR DE FORCE

Hovering at the intersection between art and technology, the 'Ciclote Tonino Lamborghini' exercise bike is a sculptural masterpiece that will boost your fitness. Crafted from carbon fibre and fitted with touchscreen controls, it condenses the design of a bicycle into a single, sleek wheel, meaning you don't need a dedicated gym to house it. £9,330 (ciclote.com).



CASA cement tiles by Scandinavian designers Claesson Koivisto Rune.
www.marrakechdesign.co.uk



Above: 'Lamorna' corner sofa, £2,875. 'Lowndes' throw, £89. Onyx faux-shagreen 'Drum' table, £375. Red faux-shagreen 'Zed' side table, £565. Leather 'Park' dining chair (with arms), £765. Charcoal and red 'Banderole' cushions (cover only), £115. Grey velvet cushions (cover only), from £39. 'Fronde' table lamp, £168.



MODERN CLASSIC

Interiors brand OKA balances contemporary British style with an international edge

Serious style, original design and quality craftsmanship: that's what the developers behind one of London's most talked about building projects, Battersea Power Station, were looking for when they asked Sue Jones, founding director of leading contemporary furniture brand, OKA, to design the interiors for its first apartment.

Jones created a scheme (left) that was typical of OKA's approach to furniture and interiors, combining periods and influences to transform this corner of the industrial landmark into a warm, welcoming living space. The result is distinctly British but, like many pieces in OKA's collection, boasts a truly global influence. All that's needed, in other words, to turn any interior into a seriously stylish home.

Shop at okadirect.com, or visit okadirect.com/directory to request a copy of the Spring Lookbook featuring the Battersea scheme.

Below, Left to right: Onyx faux-shagreen 'Zed' side table, £565. Reed 'Banderole' cushion (cover only), £115. Grey velvet cushion (cover only), £45. 'Fronde' table lamp, £168.



Small 'Midas' platter, £95. 'Bamboo Leaf' bowl, £245. 'Tortured Willow' candle holder, £125 (small) and £225 (large). For details on the accessories visit okadirect.com.



Get 15% off at OKA until 31 May 2015. Quote EDM15 at checkout in-store, online or by mail order. To find your nearest store go to okadirect.com/shops or phone 0844 815 7380

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CONCRETE PROMISE

We take a look inside a London townhouse that uses this surprisingly versatile material in creative ways

Words **TALIB CHOUDHRY**

Photography **RICHARD LEENEY**

From poured floors to striking, industrial-style storage and even the kitchen sink, the homeowners of this West London property have been experimental with concrete. Here, architect Luke McLaren of McLaren Excell talks about the interior and how you could mimic its contemporary look.

Concrete is hard wearing, economical, creates a beautiful textural finish and absorbs heat extremely well. Once warmed, it effectively becomes one enormous radiator, meaning it's ideal to use on top of underfloor heating or near a window, where it can soak up the warmth of the sun.

The concrete in this house was poured in situ. We had a certain surface texture in mind that cannot be achieved with pre-cast concrete elements. We also wanted the surface to look continuous and fluid, which meant we needed to avoid having joints. It's usually less expensive to go down the in-situ route.

The overall expenditure depends on the complexity and size of the project. Concrete flooring can cost as little as £100 per square metre, but anything more structural, such as tables, benches and columns, will be more expensive because they require formwork and reinforcement. For a piece of concrete furniture that is less than 2.5 metres tall, be prepared to pay approximately £300–£600 per linear metre.

A room filled only with concrete will feel cold and visually relentless. If a material that you are using lacks a particular quality – such as softness or tactility – try to pair it with other materials that have this attribute in abundance. It's also important to think about creating contrast. We used Douglas fir in the loft, and grey elm and European oak in the living rooms.

Existing materials are just as important as any new ones.

Painting portions of brickwork a tonal colour is a great way to merge old elements of a house with the contemporary. ►

‘Concrete absorbs heat extremely well. Once warmed, it effectively becomes a giant radiator, so it's perfect to use with underfloor heating’





CONCRETE PROMISE

How to live with it...

'People often shy away from simplicity in an interior, either from the fear that it will appear too empty or because of an inability to edit down their belongings,' says Luke McLaren. The couple who commissioned his co-owned practice to extend and remodel their Victorian house in West London, however, have embraced minimalism – a brave move for a family with two young children. 'They didn't want it to look like a typical extension and loft conversion, but aside from that they gave us few instructions, so we've been able to come up with a very pure design,' says McLaren.

Concrete is the dominant material in the open-plan kitchen and dining area, having been used as flooring and to create an island-cum-dining table with a poured-concrete bench. Accents of European oak and Douglas fir inject warmth into the scheme, while grey elm blends beautifully with the colour of the concrete. 'The wood prevents the house from feeling too cold, and ensures that this is a home that you want to spend time in,' says McLaren. The light, pared-back palette draws the eye towards the property's



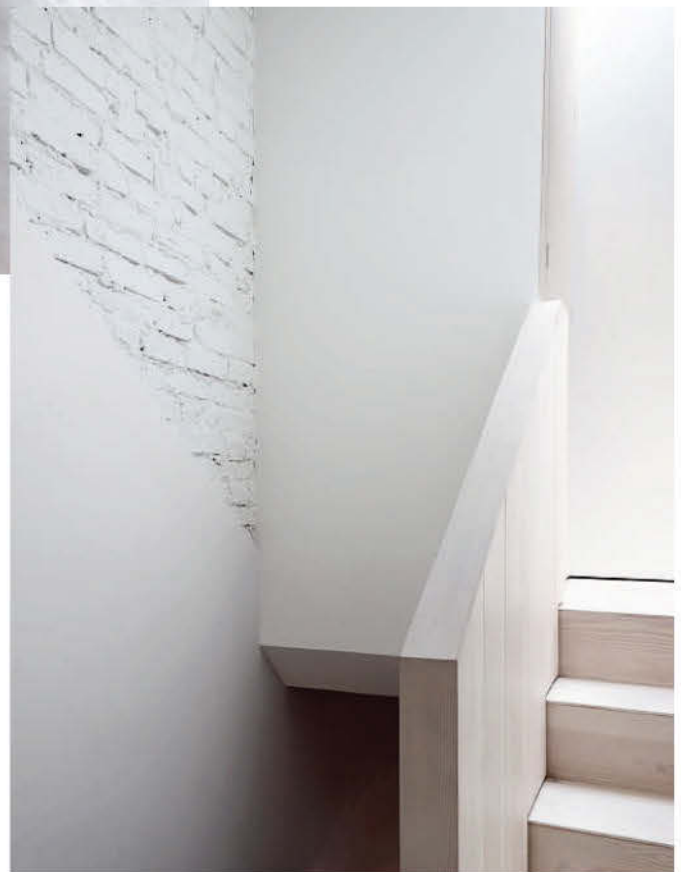
Kitchen Exposed roof joists demarcate the new extension from the original house. The cast-concrete island is the perfect height for the homeowners' children to play at



architectural details, such as the exposed brickwork in the loft and the ceiling joists in the new kitchen extension.

The architects have succeeded in taking a contemporary approach to the interior while respecting the history of the building. The loft conversion is a case in point: a section of original brickwork runs through the otherwise sleek space, creating a point of interest that reflects the Victorian fabric of the house. 'A lot of loft conversions end up being standardised plasterboard boxes,' says McLaren. 'Having the exposed brickwork removes that overly sanitised feel. We decided that it was important to retain a reminder of what the space used to be.'

Storage was another key consideration for the architects. 'When designing this house, we thought about how a child would experience it,' says McLaren. The result was cupboards on many different levels, allowing new areas to be accessed as the children grow. In the bathroom, many of the cabinets are integrated so that they do not dominate this compact space or interrupt the overall aesthetic (@mclarenexcell; mclarenexcell.com). ➤





Loft conversion
The architects have designed a flexible loft room that can be used as a study or a spare bedroom. A simple white scheme, pale wood and large windows ensure that the compact space is light and airy **ED**

‘Retaining the exposed brickwork in the loft conversion is a way to create a reminder of what the room used to be’





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SMART BLOGS FOR CREATIVE MINDS

The blogosphere is reinventing do-it-yourself, with stylish ideas and easy-to-follow online tutorials. Here, we reveal the web stars to watch

Words **ALEX KRISTAL**

ANNALEENA'S HEM

ANNALEENASHEM.BLOGSPOT.CO.UK

@ANNALEENASHEM

THE CREATIVE Annaleena Leino Karlsson is a Finnish photographer, stylist and product designer based in Stockholm. Her chic, simple images can be seen gracing the pages of Swedish magazines *Residence*, *Plaza Interiör* and *La Petite*. A selection of her creations, including the hanging clothes rails (pictured right) hand-forged by her blacksmith husband, are available to buy from her webshop.

THE BLOG Karlsson posts daily pictures of her decorating ideas and of her home. Since starting her website in 2009, she's acquired a loyal following and now she sees her work as a means of connecting with other creatives around the world. The step-by-step DIY tutorials are Karlsson's favourite element of her blog. She describes them as her 'playground for experiments'. Some projects stem from props or set designs that she has created for shoots, and others are just beautiful things that she has been inspired to make.

THE PROJECTS Think pure minimalism: recent tutorials include a lamp inspired by poster packaging tubes (pictured top left) and a simple painted room divider made from particle board, screws and three hinges. Annaleena describes herself as 'more ambitious than handy', which means her tutorials don't require any specialist skills or materials. The most you'll need is a hammer or a saw.

WHAT'S NEXT? Annaleena is designing a new house and the day-to-day realities of this will be documented online at annaleenashem.residencemagazine.se. She is also planning to set up a design studio where like-minded creatives can meet and collaborate on new ideas. ►





A BEAUTIFUL MESS

ABEAUTIFULMESS.COM

@BEAUTIFULMESS

THE CREATIVES Sisters Elsie Larson and Emma Chapman from Springfield, Missouri are on an unstoppable mission to tell the world about their handmade homewares. As well as their blog, the siblings have penned two books – *Photo Idea Book* and *Happy Handmade Home*, which is filled with DIY decorating tips – and created smartphone photography apps *Party Party* and *A Beautiful Mess*.

THE BLOG From recipes and beauty to woodworking and interior makeovers, A Beautiful Mess is brimming with ideas and has achieved international acclaim, with 1.8 million new hits every month. Growing up in a creative home with an art teacher mum and musician dad, the girls were DIYers from a young age. They love the idea that their tutorials can give others the tools to cultivate their own creativity. Averaging two posts a day, they don't disappoint.

THE PROJECTS The sisters' rule of thumb is to make things that they would want to wear themselves, or have in their own homes. They continually experiment with new projects and if something works, they will post it. The tutorials are categorised by skill level: 'afternoon' projects, which can be made in a few hours for less than £15; 'weekend' projects that entail more time and investment; and 'epic' projects, such as building cabinets or tables, which may require specialist tools and skills.

WHAT'S NEXT? Always pushing their creativity to the next level, the pair are currently renovating a house in Springfield, Missouri. Once finished, the property, purchased for £25,000, will be donated to the non-profit housing organisation Habitat for Humanity.



LOVE AESTHETICS

LOVE-AESTHETICS.NL

@LOVE_AESTHETICS

THE CREATIVE Twenty-six-year-old product designer and self-confessed aesthete Ivania Carpio runs her blog from her home in Amsterdam. Her signature 'non-colour' minimalism has attracted the attention of the fashion world and led to collaborations with brands such as & Other Stories and Calvin Klein.

THE BLOG Now in its ninth year, Love Aesthetics is a family affair, with Carpio's unique designs photographed by partner Romeo Pokomasse and their eight-year-old daughter Lois (always dressed in white) making cameo appearances. The blog is Carpio's 'antidote to consumerism' and making things is second nature to her. 'When I was a little girl, if I needed a skirt I would find a dress in the closet to cut in half,' she explains. What started with a homemade skirt led to her building the hanger to hang it on, then the rail, until soon she was customising her entire environment. Documenting that creative process through easy-to-follow online tutorials is a natural progression.

THE PROJECTS Functionality is key: you won't find decorative knick-knacks here. From handmade clothes racks (pictured right) favoured by fashion students to display their latest collections to Perspex coffee tables, Carpio offers uncomplicated ideas that use materials which are easily available at any hardware store.

FAVOURITE DIY DESIGN A bedside table created using a circular sheet of glass that is sandwiched between a stack of books wrapped in white paper (pictured below). ►



The minimalist blog Love Aesthetics is its creator Ivania Carpio's 'antidote to consumerism'



ZANA

ZANAPRODUCTS.CO.ZA/BLOG
@ZANAPRODUCTS

THE CREATIVES Mother-and-daughter team Sue and Robyn Britz started sewing in their garage and selling their designs via the online marketplace Etsy. Soon, their printed homewares began to attract orders from all over the world, and their brand Zana was born. Graphic designer Nikki Albertyn and interior designer Melissa Nunnerley have now joined the team (pictured below), which is based in Cape Town, South Africa.

THE BLOG Zana has a wide scope, covering food and travel, cool happenings in Cape Town and, of course, DIY projects. The brand's Etsy shop sells the team's creations, from coin purses to cushions, but the blog is 'a way to engage with our buyers by providing a sneak peek behind the scenes,' explains Nunnerley. The link between the blog and the shop is fluid, with some of Zana's DIY tutorials, such as a magazine stand made from copper piping and graphic fabric (pictured below), proving so popular that the products are now also available to buy ready-made in the shop.

THE PROJECTS Inspiration for designs often arises from the team creating things they need for their own homes, which they will then prototype, photograph and post. The projects vary in skill levels. One of the easiest ideas to begin with is a string of origami-prism lights (pictured right).

WHAT'S NEXT? The dream job would be to design a wedding, from the invitations to the decorations, in Zana style. ►



The Zana blog gives fans of the team's bright designs a chance to look behind the scenes of the creative process



IL NATURE, FRANCE, PARC COURANCES, 2004, PHOTO URS WYSS / ADVERTISEMENT

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SWEET PAUL

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THE CREATIVE Paul Lowe has been styling food and props for 25 years; he grew up in Norway but has lived in New York for the past decade. With 20 cookbooks under his belt, along with a cult blog and a quarterly magazine, *Sweet Paul*, he knows a thing or two about the homemade lifestyle.

THE BLOG Sweet Paul began as a hobby in 2007, documenting Lowe's culinary and craft projects. It is a celebration of 'the sweet things in life', with mouthwatering recipes, inspiring how-tos and tips for entertaining. Creativity is in Lowe's blood, as he was raised in Oslo by his grandmother Mormor and great-aunt Gunnvor, who would 'cook and craft all day'. Now, he wants to encourage everyone to give it a go: 'It is the best compliment when someone is inspired to make your ideas themselves,' he says.

THE PROJECTS Whether it's a cake or a lamp, Lowe's tutorials are intended to make use of the things that you already have in your home, or supplies that can be easily sourced at a local market or second-hand store. Lowe advocates recycling: his recent projects include a pendant light made from a whisk and trivets made from carefully arranged clothes pegs (both pictured left).

FAVOURITE DIY DESIGN 'For me, the best projects are those that cost nothing, or a few dollars at the most, and you can make them within an hour,' says Lowe. It's all about turning trash into treasure. **ED**

➤ *Inspired to try a DIY design at home? Visit elledecoration.co.uk to watch step-by-step video tutorials from our favourite bloggers. Learn how to make Sweet Paul's wooden trivet, Zana's origami fairy lights and much more*





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HOME

THIS MONTH'S MOST INSPIRING SPACES



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WINDOW ON THE WORLD

Stunning panoramic views of the waterfront were the main attraction for this home's Finnish owners, who left the city behind to live on the coast

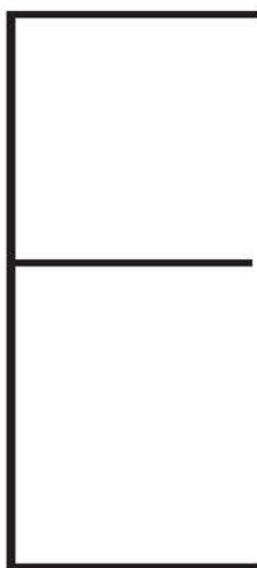
Words **EMMA LOVE**
Photography **KRISTA KELTANEN/LIVING INSIDE**





Exterior Owners Juha and Catja Abram snapped up a plot of land in Espoo, Finland, and built their glass-fronted home from scratch
Living room The furniture has been arranged to make the most of the beautiful seaside setting ►





Espoo is a city that mixes urban culture with waterside living, and it's just a 20-minute boat ride from Finland's capital, Helsinki. Juha Abram and his Spanish wife Catja have always enjoyed the lifestyle of Espoo's Tapiola district, but the opportunity to fulfil a dream and create their own home from scratch led them to move to this stretch of picturesque coastline and woodland.

'We've lived in the area for 15 years, so when we found out that a house on the waterfront was going to be demolished, we bought the land and started building,' recalls Juha of the project, which started in 2011 and took 18 months to complete. 'We had been house-hunting for a long time, but

couldn't find anything to match our vision. This was a chance to combine ideas that we had seen in homes on our travels.'

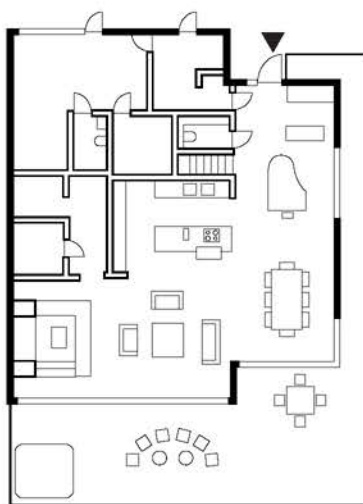
The Abrams instructed local architect Joanna Maury-Ahola to create the 400-square-metre, three-bedroom property. Key to the design are the floor-to-ceiling windows that overlook the water on one side of the building. 'We wanted to be able to look out and see nature – the water, the trees and the park next door,' says Juha.

The couple deliberately situated the bedrooms at the furthest point from the kitchen. 'It means that when we have visitors, the sleeping areas are calm,' says Juha. The house also has a studio with a separate entrance that was designed for the couple's 15-year-old son, Hans, a television room and, of course, a sauna. 'This is very important to Finns,' quips Juha.

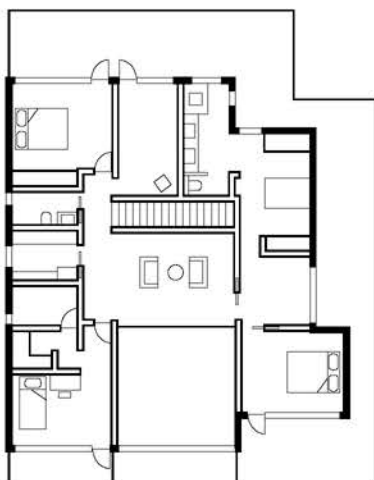
The interior has pale wooden floors and an all-white palette. 'This country is very dark. In the winter there are only a couple of hours of sunshine each day, so we wanted to make the house feel light and spacious,' Juha explains. 'Also, white is a colour that doesn't go out of fashion. It is timeless.'

When they are indoors, the family tend to gather in the kitchen. 'At weekends, I love cooking southeast Asian dishes or traditional smoked salmon with new potatoes and mushrooms,' says Juha. 'My other favourite spot in the house is the sunken seating area in the living room, right by the fireplace, particularly when it's cold outside.'

Over the years, Juha has seen Tapiola develop from a sleepy backwater to a business hub that attracts the headquarters of technology companies. 'My grandmother had a summerhouse here in the 1930s when it was just a fishing village with rowing boats bobbing on the water. Then in the 1950s, the area was developed by architects such as Alvar Aalto and Aarne Ervi. In recent years, Espoo has continued to expand rapidly,' he says. Luckily, though, it still has a good balance: nature is literally on its doorstep. *joarc.fi*



GROUND FLOOR



FIRST FLOOR

Living room From almost every corner of the open-plan space, the homeowners look out to the water through double-height windows. The interior has pale wood floors and a white colour palette to maximise light, a precious commodity during the dark Finnish winters ➤





Living room The family like to gather in this cosy sunken seating area, which surrounds a contemporary fireplace

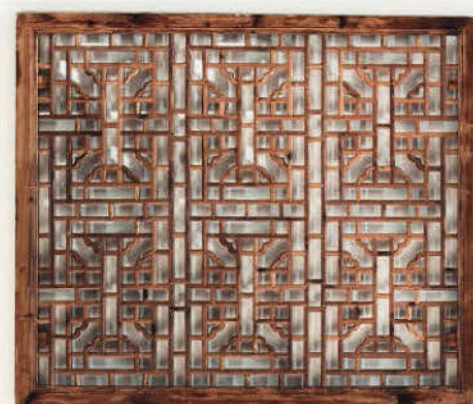




Dining area A "Thinner" table by Tobias Berneth for Karl Andersson is complemented by a set of six chairs from Finnish office furniture brand Adi Kalusteet. The picture of a boy eating a banana is by Jason Barner-Rasmussen
Stockist details on p254 ►



This page The French piano, which dates from the 19th century, is a family heirloom
Opposite The sleek kitchen fits neatly into the corner of this open-plan space
Stockist details on p254 ▶







MY COASTAL LIFE

I prefer to live on the coast. I'm definitely a seaside boy at heart.

I love being surrounded by nature. This house is nestled by the water and the woods, but is just a ten-minute drive from downtown Helsinki.

The sea is very calm here – it's almost like a lake, but one that has islands and rocky outcrops. It's not an area for big boats, because the water is too shallow.

In Helsinki, I go to the Market Square. It has recently been renovated and it's my favourite place to visit on a Saturday. I have a cup of coffee and then buy fresh groceries and fish.

We like to explore the islands on the archipelago. I love visiting Suomenlinna – the site of a maritime fortress that has UNESCO World Heritage status – and Iso Vasikkasaari, which has a charming beach and a great restaurant called Gula Villan (gulavillan.fi).



Opposite The kitchen, created by Airas Design and Arritel, has a central island that separates it from the living area

This page The pared-back scheme continues upstairs. A second living room is furnished with a table by Alvar Aalto for Artek and 'Remmi' chairs by Finnish designer Yrjö Kukkapuro for Avarte
Stockist details on p254 ►



Sauna This contemporary space is decked out with slate walls and floors. The back wall is a steel plate that was deliberately left outdoors to corrode its surface before it was varnished

Bedroom The homeowners' room is simply designed, with a wooden feature wall behind the bed and glass doors that open onto a terrace. The bed is by Finnish brand Muurame

Stockist details on p254 **ED**



ELEGANT URBANITES

Architects Anna Karin and Jesper Wickström have given their period apartment in central Stockholm a relaxed feel by using a pale palette and sleek, modern furniture

Words HANNAH BOOTH
Photography STELLAN HERNER
Styling GILL RENLUND

Living space The 'Suspension Vertigo' pendant light by Petite Friture adds interest to the room, which has a marble fireplace in one corner. The 'Cloud' sofa by Francesco Rota, 'Popsi' chairs by Ferruccio Laviani, and tables are all from Lema
Stockist details on p254 ►





B

efore moving to this classical city apartment built in 1902, architects Anna Karin and Jesper Wickström lived in a custom-built house on one of the archipelagos that surround Stockholm. The coastal location was beautiful, but the two-hour commute each way to the couple's office and furniture showroom, Planoform, in central Stockholm, along with the stress of managing childcare – tough, even in this famously child-friendly country – left them exhausted. 'We were like headless chickens,' says Anna.

A desire for a change of pace brought the pair back to the city, and the smart Östermalm district, two years ago. Today, they are five minutes from both school and office. 'It was a big change,' says Anna, 'and we still never have enough hours in the day. But we're more relaxed. Östermalm is quiet and residential, with lots of parks.'

Despite being home to Viggo, five, and Irma, eight, this is a particularly grown-up space. Uncluttered and elegant, it is painted grey-green throughout, in contrast with the archetypal all-white style of Swedish apartments. 'It's such a calming colour,' says Anna.

The panelled walls and parquet floors that run throughout the interior are original to the home. Anna and Jesper sanded the floors before applying a grey pigment and lacquer, leaving cracks and imperfections. 'Most of the furniture is slick and modern, so we wanted the apartment to have some older, time-worn elements to maintain the soul of the building,' she says.

The couple favour sleek Italian furniture, lighting and bathroom fittings from high-end brands such as Flos, Agape and Binova. It's a similar selection to the one at Planoform; the pair's home and showroom share a common aesthetic. There is space for vintage pieces, such as the delicately patterned sea-green rug in the kitchen and a pair of beautifully aged runners in the hallway, that have been handed down from relatives or collected over the years.

Being architects, Anna and Jesper were keen to make their mark on the building as well as retaining a sense of its heritage. They turned the existing kitchen, which was small and tucked away, into Viggo's room and enlarged the bathroom to create space for a tub. 'We love how the apartment looks, but it has to be functional,' says Anna. 'It has to work for you; otherwise, it's not good design.'

The family spend most of their time in the new, larger kitchen, which is separated from the living room by sliding doors. This layout means that the couple can entertain friends in the early evening while Viggo and Irma watch television next door. Later, the kids retire to their bedrooms, which are set back from the living areas out of earshot. Even the lack of a garden – an inner-city compromise – isn't too confining: the coast is just a short drive away, making it easy to enjoy swimming and picnics in the summer. *planoform.se*

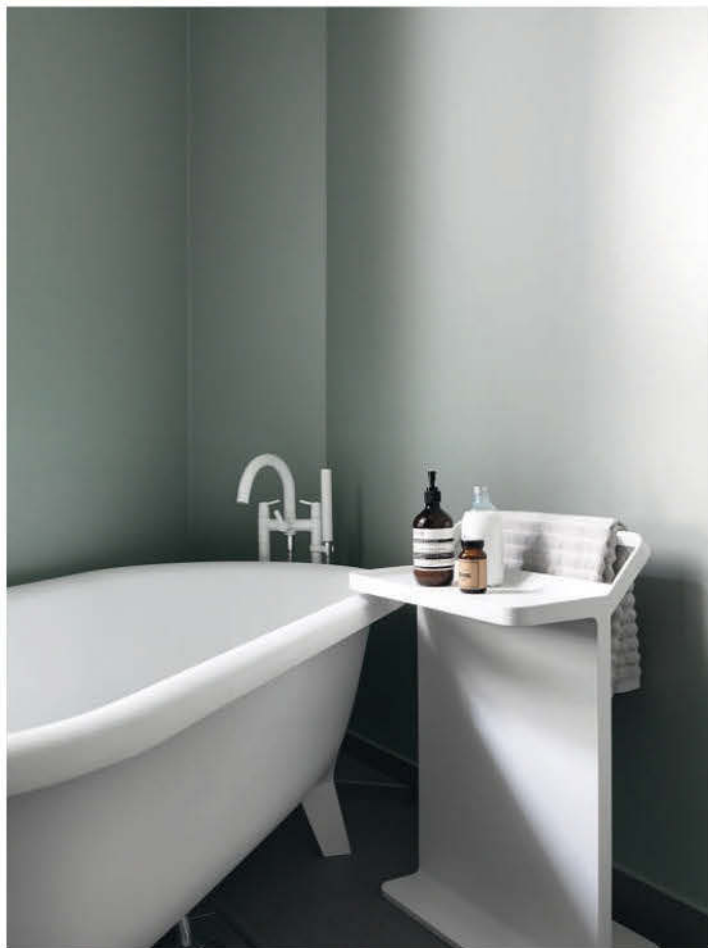
Kitchen Sliding doors separate the kitchen, which was designed by Arclinea, from the living room. Piero Lissoni's 'Hati' dining chairs surround the 'Filo' dining table, both by Lema. Above it hangs a 'Smithfield' pendant by Jasper Morrison for Flos, which also produces the white 'Kap' ceiling lights. The vintage rug was a gift; you can find a good selection in the UK at [Orientalist Rugs Stockist details on p254](#)►







Office A small working space (see opposite) with a 'Novelist' desk by Lema and a Tolix chair
Hallway Built-in 'Traccia' units by Lema line one wall and the floor is decorated with vintage runners
Stockist details on p254



Bathroom Most of the fittings are from Agape, including the 'Ottocento' bath and the elegant 'Multifunzione' freestanding shelf (both available from Liquid Design) **Stockist details on p254 ►**



Hallway The classic leather 'Adnet' mirror by Gubi (find it at Lollipop Shoppe) hangs above a chest of drawers by Lema

Bedroom Bed linen in shades of grey works beautifully with the grey-green walls. Beside the bed, Lee Broom's 'Crystal Bulb' lamp sits on a pile of bedtime reading on top of a side table by Lema

Stockist details on p254

MY CITY: STOCKHOLM

Stockholm has so much to offer, but if I could change anything about the place it would be the weather. I love spring, when we all come out of our hibernation. The city wakes up and people start to smile again.

I really like our local supermarket, Sabis (sabis.se). It makes grocery shopping fun.

My favourite bistro is just a five-minute walk from my home. It's called Broms (bromskarlaplan.se) and it opens at 7am every day, so it's great for hungry children.

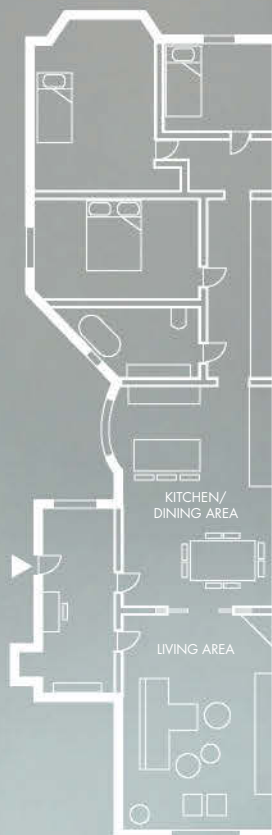
Swedes drink a lot of coffee. We even have a twice-daily ritual called *fika*, which is a coffee break with a cinnamon bun. The Swedish bakery Tössebageriet in Karlavagen (tosse.se) is a brilliant spot for this.

I love visiting Djurgården, an island that's part of the city. It's famous for its waterside location and ancient oak trees – one of them is rumoured to be 1,000 years old.

The best Swedish speciality is roe with sour cream and red onions. Pelikan restaurant (pelikan.se) on Södermalm is the place to go for traditional dishes.

The Old Town is a little overrated in my view. It's pretty, but also very touristy.

Take a boat or ferry trip to the archipelago for clean water and fresh air. **ED**



SHINING EXAMPLES

Lights are the jewellery of the home, so choose designs that make a statement, from strong silhouettes and oversized pendants to quirky chandeliers and metallic models

Photography **MAGNUS ANESUND** Styling **TINA HELLBERG**



This page, from left 'Bellewood' wallpaper, £33 per sq m, Rebel Walls (rebelwalls.co.uk). Stool by Broste Copenhagen, £101, Royal Design (royaldesign.co.uk). 'Stilla' table by Jonas Bohlin for Gemla, £1,335, Kallemo (kallemo.se). 'W132' table light by Nendo for Wästberg, £519, Nest (nest.co.uk). Green vase by Broste Copenhagen, £29.95, Atelier Home & Garden (atelier-home.co.uk). Bottles, stylist's own. Dish by Broste Copenhagen, £55, House of Fraser (houseoffraser.co.uk). Knife, £78, Mora (moradistribution.co.uk). 'Saigon' brass table lamp, £131, Watt & Veke (wattveke.com). Candelabra-style light, £314, Konsthantverk (konsthantverk.com). Pendant light by Note Design Studio for Zero Lighting, £465, Inform Furniture (informfurniture.co.uk). Chair, £129, Afroart (afroart.se). **Opposite, from left** 'Bellewood' wallpaper, as before. 'W132s' conical pendant light by Nendo for Wästberg, £355, Nest (nest.co.uk). Porcelain pendant light, £299, Studio WM (studiowm.com). 'Pop' wire-and-bamboo pendant lamp by Studio Ljung & Ljung, £153.56, Flow Gallery (flowgallery.co.uk) ►





On wall, from left Brass pendant light, £347, Workstead (workstead.com). 'Mini Pine' string of lights, £11, Watt & Veke (wattveke.com). 'Bent Wood' mirror by Wrong for Hay, from £191, Utility Design (utilitydesign.co.uk). '2162' brass wall lamp by Josef Frank, £205, Svenskt Tenn (svensktenn.se). 'Meshmatics' wire mesh chandelier, £378, Atelier Rick Tegelaar (order-ricktegelaar.nl)

On floor, from left Striped rug, £110, Afroart (afroart.se). Print from a set of 20, £28, Ygg & Lyng (yggoglyng.no). 'Vårby' table lamp, £10, Ikea (ikea.com). Hat box by Wrong for Hay, £116, The Lollipop Shoppe (thelollipopshoppe.co.uk). 'Thirty' wall light by Samuel Wilkinson, £362, Zero Lighting (zerolighting.com). 'Manila' rattan basket, £47, Afroart (afroart.se). '2162' brass wall lamp by Josef Frank, £205, Svenskt Tenn (svensktenn.se). 'Light Wood' table lamp, £324 (made to order), Studio Ljung & Ljung (studioljungljung.se)



From left 'Nor' grey rug by Broste Copenhagen, £91, Royal Design (royaldesign.co.uk). 'Traffic' side table by Konstantin Grcic for Magis, £314, Made in Design (madeindesign.co.uk). 'Jute' bulb lamp, £34, Watt & Veke (wattveke.com). Jars, from £31 each, Broste Copenhagen (brostecopenhagen.com). Tumblers by Silo Studio for Wrong for Hay, £12 each, Twenty Twenty One (twentytwentyone.com). Pitcher, £35, By Leonnie (byleonnies.com). Pendant light by Note Design Studio, £381, Zero Lighting (zerolighting.com). Striped rugs, from £70 each, Afroart (afroart.se). 'Beat' floor lamp, £855, Tom Dixon (tomdixon.net). Mask, £50, Afroart (afroart.se). Pendant light, £314, Konstantverk (konstantverk.com). Wall light, £317, Workstead (workstead.com). Alligator sculpture, £35; small mask, £20, both Afroart (afroart.se). Sofa, £2,677; table, £488, both by Konstantin Grcic for Magis, Made in Design (madeindesign.co.uk). Bookends, £200, Tom Dixon (tomdixon.net). Brass insect, £19; Blue rug, £27, both Broste Copenhagen (brostecopenhagen.com). Stool, £30; basket, £43, both Afroart (afroart.se). Pillow, £54, Ygg & Lyng (yggoglyng.no). Metallic cushion, £26, Broste Copenhagen (brostecopenhagen.com) ➤



CHIN
UP
BUTTERCUP



Opposite, from left String of rope lights, try Cox & Cox for similar (coxandcox.co.uk). **Lightbox** (on floor) by Daniela Upmark, £297; letters, £2 each, all Bxxlight (bxxlight.com). 'Convex' wall lamp by Jens Fager for Zero Lighting, £530, Nest (nest.co.uk). 'Hanging No 5' pendant light, £62, Bergman Lights (bergmanlights.com). 'Couronne' table by Ania Pauser, £1,100, Klong (klong.se). Bowl, £35, Anna Lerinder (lerinder.se). 'Sandy Lane' fabric by Loro Piana, £150 per m, Fox Linton (foxlinton.com). **This page, from left** 'Zero Silo' floor lamp by Note Design for Zero Lighting, £400, Viaduct (viaduct.co.uk). Wicker chair, £129, Afroart (afroart.se). Shawl, stylist's own. 'Everyday Chandelier' pendant lamp by Malin Lundmark for By Rydén, £135, Holloways of Ludlow (hollowaysofludlow.com). 'Meshmatics' pendant light, £214, Atelier Rick Tegelaar (order-ricktegelaar.nl). Ash cabinet, £1,200, Scandinavian Wood (scandinavian-wood.com). *The Book of Symbols: Reflections on Archetypal Images* by Archive for Research in Archetypal Symbolism, £24.99, Taschen (taschen.com). 'Small Lens Box' by Thomas Jenkins for Wrong for Hay, £45, Selfridges (selfridges.com). 'Types' candleholders by Daniel Svahn, available autumn, Gallery Pascale (gallerypascale.com). 'Lampe de Marseille' wall light by Le Corbusier for Nemo Lighting, £610, Twenty Twenty One (twentytwentyone.com) **ED**



Full bloom

This spring, fill your home with an explosion of floral patterns, from the latest textiles to furniture and artworks inspired by nature

*Styling HANNAH BORT Photography JONAS INGERSTEDT Styling Assistant MELANIE MAY
Floral displays SCARLET & VIOLET (SCARLETANDVIOLET.COM)*

✚ To view our interview with florist Vic Brotherson, creator of these stunning flower displays, visit elledecoration.co.uk



From left 'Grace Cyan' fabric by Michael S Smith, £144 per sq m, Jamb (jamblimited.com). 'Passiflora Dew' fabric, £74 per sq m, Boeme (boeme.co.uk). 'April' tables by Alfredo Häberli for Nikari, from £1,565 each, Viaduct (viaduct.co.uk). 'KI0410' watering can, £33; 'CH0500' vase, £18, both House Doctor (housedoctor.dk). 'Geometry' vase, £30, Ferm Living (fermliving.com). Vintage sofa upholstered in 'Bohemian Tapestry Teal' fabric, £95 per sq m, Mulberry Home (mulberryhome.com). 'Dee' brown cushion cover, £76, Aiayu (aiayu.com). 'Larkspur' floral cushion, £76, Boeme (boeme.co.uk). 'Asko' rug, £260, Heal's (heals.co.uk). 'Lucille' hanging flower cocoon, £350, Llot Llov (lloல்லov.de). 'Rosa' footstool, £275, Imogen Heath (imogenheath.com). 'Shake' cabinet by Sebastian Cox, £2,800, Benchmark (benchmarkfurniture.com). 'Hamilton' grey cushion, £120, Aiayu (aiayu.com). 'Vice Versa' yellow throw, £260, The Conran Shop (conranshop.co.uk). 'Bluebell' patterned cushion, £65, Imogen Heath (imogenheath.com). 'Vice Versa' pink throw, £260, The Conran Shop (conranshop.co.uk). 'Lady Roxana Wall' wallpaper (on screen), £840 per 10m roll, Rubelli (rubelli.com) ➤



FULL BLOOM

From left 'Pounded' vase, £129, Bo Concept (boconcept.com). Basket, £118, Balineum (balineum.co.uk). 'Cochin' grey wallpaper, £60 per 10m roll, Zoffany (zoffany.com). 'Peony' blue wallpaper, £110 per 10m roll, Farrow & Ball (farrow-ball.com). Artwork by Claire Basler, from £1,400 (clairebasler.com). Cushion covered in 'Kabala' fabric, £46 per sq m, Harlequin (harlequin.uk.com). 'Basmarket M' woven basket, £16.50, Tine K Home (tinekhome.com). Small broom, £50, Objects of Use (objectsofuse.com). Jasmine purple wallpaper, £110 per 10m roll, Farrow & Ball (farrow-ball.com). 'Etc' green throw by Oyuna, £599, Harrods (harrods.com). 'Vice Versa' yellow throw, £260, The Conran Shop (conranshop.co.uk). 'Pirra' cushion, £58, Anthropologie (anthropologie.eu). 'Hortensia' rug by Michaela Schleypen, £4,975, Front London (frontlondon.com). Broom, £14.50, Objects of Use (objectsofuse.com). 'Hanging Square' ceramic planter, £41, Tina Frey (tinafreydesigns.com). Glass planters, from £25 each, all Eleanor Bolton (eleanorbolton.com). 'Faria Flowers Water Garden' blue fabric, £80 per m, Liberty (liberty.co.uk). Jade Temple Ecru white fabric, £75 per sq m, Designers Guild (designersguild.com). 'Crinoline' armchair by Patricia Urquiola, £2,929, B&B Italia (bebitalia.com). 'Keros' pale green fabric (background), £52 per m, Sanderson (sanderson-uk.com). 'Dorian Gray' grey fabric (background), £185 per m, Rubelli (rubelli.com).



From left 'Peacock Garden' wallpaper, £78 per m, Zoffany (zoffany.com). 'Desk Three', £895, Another Country (anothercountry.com). 'RH0110' table light, £180, House Doctor (housedoctor.dk). 'Snow White' plate, £25 and 'Rustic' soup bowl, £18, both Nom Living (nomliving.com). 'True Colours' vase by Lex Pott for &Tradition, from £70, Haus London (hauslondon.com). 'Ball' pendant lights by Applicata, £27 each, Dowse Design (dowsedesign.co.uk). 'Rosiers No.24' tile, £100 per sq m, Emery et Cie (emeryetcie.com). 'Tea' mug, £12, Nom Living (nomliving.com). 'Crispy II' vase, £39, Bo Concept (boconcept.com). 'Neu' pitcher, £49, Ferm Living (fermliving.com). 'CH33' chair by Hans J Wegner, £381, Carl Hansen & Søn (carlhansen.com). 'Basket', £118, Baineum (baineum.com). 'Ochre' pot, £99, Ferm Living (fermliving.com). 'Vilfred' desk, £778, Bolia (bolia.com). 'Geranium print', £33.50, Pernille Folcarelli (pernillefolcarelli.dk). 'Lonely Cactus print', £42, Alicia Galer (aliciagaler.com). 'Sculpture', £26.50, House Doctor (housedoctor.dk). 'Stacked bowls', £42 each, Reiko Kaneko (reikokaneko.co.uk). 'Chrysantheme Green No.7' tile, £52, Emery et Cie (emeryetcie.com). 'Cup', £9.30, Madam Stoltz (madamstoltz.dk). 'Potluck' stool by Lola Lely, £820, The New Craftsmen (thenewcraftsmen.com). 'Artworks on wall from left A Floral Bouquet print, £66, Alicia Galer (aliciagaler.com). 'Veggie no.2 print, £22, Vontrueba (vontrueba.tictail.com). 'Flowering Cacti print, £66, Alicia Galer (aliciagaler.com) >



FULL BLOOM

From left 'Acanthus Forest' rug, £625, Morris & Co (william-morris.co.uk). Chair by Afteroom, £240, Menu (menu.as). 'R.I.G' table by Mikal Harrsen & Adam Hall for MA/U Studio, £1,736, Viaduct (viaduct.co.uk). 'Cartoeci' bottle, £190, Paola Paronetto (paolaparonetto.com). 'Pedestal' bowl, £89, Tina Frey (tinafreydesigns.com). Two-tone vase by Lex Pott for &tradition, from £79, Haus London (hauslondon.com). 'Unika' vase, from £100, Tortus Copenhagen (tortus-copenhagen.com). Flowers 'Untitled' print by Lourdes Sanchez, £650, Sears Peyton Gallery (searspeyton.com). Pendant light by Workstead, £455, Another Country (anothercountry.com). Artwork, from £1,400, Claire Basler (clairebasler.com). Chair by Marjan van Aubel and James Shaw, £1,250, Well Proven (wellprovenchair.com). 'Sutoa' cabinet by Keiji Ashizawa, £2,990, Frama (framaph.com). Clothes rail, £147, Madam Stoltz (madamstoltz.dk). 'Luiza Zinnia' fabric, £80 per m, Romo (romoblack.com). 'Floral Clay' voile in 'Sunrise', £70 per m, Liberty (liberty.co.uk). Planter, £28, House Doctor (housedoctor.dk). 'Jeffrey Rose Tree' cushion, £150, Liberty (liberty.co.uk).



From left 'Frey' sideboard, £4,560, Pinch (pinchdesign.com). 'Family' vase, £692, Droog (droog.com). 'White Bottle' vessels by Akiko Hirai, from £91, Flow Gallery (flowgallery.co.uk). A Floral Bouquet print, £66, Alicia Galer (aliciagaler.com). 'BU0130' safety pin, £18, House Doctor (housedoctor.dk). 'Unika' bowl, £100, Tortus Copenhagen (tortus-copenhagen.com). Fruit bowl, £105, Oh My Home (ohmyhome.nl). 'Big Dorian' mirror by Martin Hirth, £270, Pulpo (pulp-shop.de). 'Bunny' sculpture, £12, Nom Living (nomliving.com). 'Sponge' round vase by Marcel Wanders, £145, Modoi (moooi.com). 'Balance' black vase by Hallgeir Homstvedt, £69, Muuto (muuto.com). 'Ochre' pot, £20, Ferm Living (fermliving.com). 'Parasol' table light by Jonas Forsman, £400, Innermost (innermost.net). 'Loom' stool by Hierv, £314, H Furniture (hfurniture.co) ►

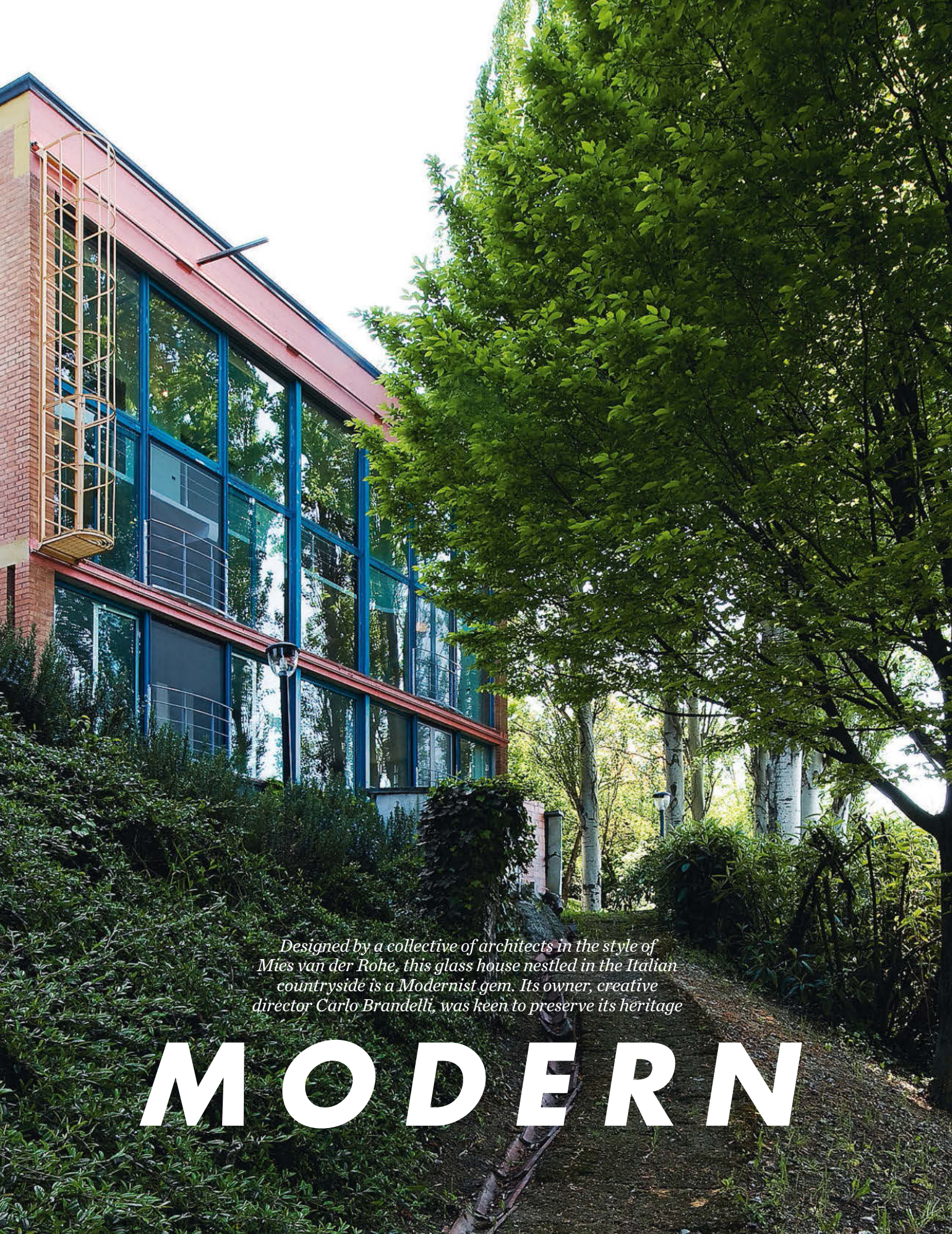


FULL BLOOM

From left 'Starsky' table by David Lopez Quincoces for Living Divani, £1,025, CoExistence (coexistence.co.uk), 'Wheat Straw Sphere' vase, £120, Pols Potten (polspotten.nl), 'Tuvalu' bed and mattress, £2,590, Oka (okadirect.com), 'Jade Temple Ecru' fabric, £75 per sq m, Designers Guild (designersguild.com), 'Grey' bedsheet, £159, Larusi (larusi.com), 'Rem' pink pillowcase by Society Limonta, £110 for two, Harrods (harrods.com), 'Nap Marge' patterned pillowcase by Society Limonta, £180 for two, Harrods (harrods.com), 'Light Floral' cushion, £110, Anthropologie (anthropologie.eu), Duvet cover, £297, Larusi (larusi.com).



'Rem Verbena' **cream sheet** by Society Limonta, £290, Harrods (harrods.com). 'Starsky' **table** (as before). 'White Bottle' **vessels** by Akiko Hirai, from £91 each, Flow Gallery (flowgallery.co.uk). **Plate and cup**, £105, Oh My Home (ohmyhome.nl). 'Torn Between' **rug**, £3,575, Deirdre Dyson (deirdredyson.com). 'Clothes Horse' by Jonah Takagi, £2,450, Another Country (anothercountry.com). 'Unika' **vase**, from £100, Tortus Copenhagen (tortus-copenhagen.com). 'Hamish' **pink throw**, £250; 'Siri' **bathrobe**, £230, both Aiayu (aiayu.com). 'Noma' **green throw** by Oyuna, £949, Harrods (harrods.com). **Cushion** in 'Jazzy Flower' fabric, £129 per sq.m, JAB Anstoetz (jab-uk.co.uk). 'Leaf Seat' **pouf**, £350, Design by Nico (designbynico.co.uk) **ED**



Designed by a collective of architects in the style of Mies van der Rohe, this glass house nestled in the Italian countryside is a Modernist gem. Its owner, creative director Carlo Brandelli, was keen to preserve its heritage

MODERN

A photograph of a modern interior space. On the left, a large glass wall with a dark frame looks out onto a lush green forest. A curved balcony with a glass railing and a dark metal handrail is visible above the main floor. The main floor has a light-colored wooden floor. In the center, there is a tall, narrow glass display case and a smaller, square glass table. To the right, a striped armchair is positioned. In the background, a wooden desk with a brass lamp and a small framed picture is visible. The overall atmosphere is bright and airy, with sunlight streaming in from the glass wall.

LEGACY

Words EMMA LOVE Photography HELENIO BARBETTA/LIVING INSIDE

Built by an architectural collective in 1974, this house sits on a hill overlooking the medieval town of Castell'Arquato, just 50 minutes' drive from Milan, northern Italy. The brief for the architects was to design a house in the spirit of Mies van der Rohe – a revelation for the local area at the time. 'The town's castle dates back to the year 900. To build something so modern out of steel and glass here was quite something,' says homeowner Carlo Brandelli, who is a designer and the creative director of London-based menswear brand Kilgour.

Carlo's family have links to Castell'Arquato, which perches majestically on the Val D'Arda hills of Emilia-Romagna. 'The connection led me to look for a plot of land in the area where I could build my own house and studio,' he says. 'Someone mentioned that there was a contemporary property nearby, so I went to take a look.' The home that Carlo discovered is a 350-square-metre, four-floor Modernist classic, with four bedrooms, an open-plan living area and space for a separate studio. Procuring the house was not an easy task, though. Carlo found himself being thoroughly vetted by the previous owner. 'He wanted the property to be sold to someone who would appreciate its architecture,' Carlo explains. 'I had to keep flying over from London, where I was based at the time, to convince him that I wouldn't change the structure of the building.'



Carlo eventually bought the house in 2001 and, true to his word, has kept the original architecture entirely unchanged.

He has instead left his mark on the home in other ways, filling it with contemporary pieces, many of them sourced locally. 'I came across a collector of Saporiti furniture who had a warehouse nearby,' says Carlo. 'Saporiti is an Italian company that pushed the boundaries of design in the 1970s. I bought nearly everything, including some prototype pieces, for the house from this one collector.'


Carlo used local stone and marble to make the sculptures that decorate the space. His work is known for blurring the lines between art, fashion and design. Back in the 1990s, he set up Squire, a pioneering concept store in a London gallery that merged Pop Art with fashion (a young Alexander McQueen was a regular customer).

This Italian abode is the ideal home for an artist, with 'incredible light on every floor all day long in the summer,' says Carlo. It's no wonder, then, that it is proving such a wrench for Carlo to sell the house now that he has decided to relocate to London for the foreseeable future. 'I won't be vetting potential suitors quite so strictly,' he says, 'but I would like the building to go to a person who will appreciate it as much as I have'. @CarloBrandelli; carlobrandelli.com

Living area Marble sculptures by homeowner Carlo (pictured) and a gold lamp by Joe Colombo sit on top of the vintage 1970s sideboard by Saporiti. The mirror-and-steel coffee table by Willy Rizzo is another classic piece from the 1970s
Stockist details on p254 ►







**CARLO HAS KEPT THE
ARCHITECTURE OF
THE HOUSE UNCHANGED
AND FILLED IT WITH
MODERNIST PIECES**

Living area The Z-shaped table is a prototype by Saporiti. The dining chairs are by the same brand and have been covered in Missoni fabric. Two 'Wave' lounge chairs by Giovanni Offredi and a chaise longue by Saporiti face the glass wall. The steel 'Gyroscope' table lamp is by Missaglia
Stockist details on p254 ►





The view The three-metre-high windows at the back of the building look out over the medieval town of Castell'Arquato in northern Italy
Bedroom Located on the top floor of the house, this space is furnished simply with a Flou bed and an iconic 'Groovy' chair by Pierre Paulin for Artifort (try Nest in the UK)
Stockist details on p254 

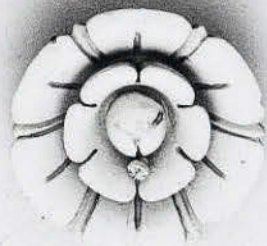


Grey scale

A gentle colour scheme of pale neutrals complements both the classical architecture of this Copenhagen apartment and its owners' collection of contemporary art and furniture



Words **ALLAN TORP** Photography **LINE KLEIN** Styling **SOFIE BRÜNNER**





Opposite The apartment is located in a building designed in 1904. Pictured here are details of the portico's ceiling and a view of the main entrance
This page Grete Jalk's 'GJ' chair (available at Skandium) sits with a low table by Eames for Vitra and a round one by Moroso
Stockist details on p254 ►

*This Copenhagen apartment's classical entrance leads to
a clean-lined interior punctuated by simple furniture
that reflects the owners' passion for modern design*





Living room An Eilersen sofa covered in velvet stands beneath work by Danish artist Absalon Kirkeby. The rug is one of a number in the apartment by Nanimarquina. The 'Costanza' floor lamp on the right is by Paolo Rizzatto for Luceplan
Stockist details on p254 ►

Architect **Henrik Kjær Christiansen**, who also runs blog and online shop *The Architect's Choice*, and his partner **Tue Byskov Bøtkjoer**, a director at global analytics company *Foss*, live in this airy apartment on the tree-lined boulevards of Frederiksberg in Copenhagen. Built in 1904, the interior is ordered and elegant, far from the dilapidated shell that they inherited when they acquired the property. Henrik's radical approach to refurbishment – he's merged a masculine aesthetic with the existing classical architecture – restored the home to its former glory while adding a contemporary sensibility.

There's a sense of grandeur at this address that begins at the building's entrance: its arched portico sweeps over marble columns and leads inside to a staircase that winds its way up to the couple's apartment. Stepping into the flat, the historic entrance gives way to clean-lined, modern rooms decorated with simple furniture by designers such as Grete Jalk and Norman Cherner.

The hallway flows seamlessly into the formal dining area, where sunlight pours in through large windows, casting long shadows across the parquet floor. A monochromatic palette of grey and white sets a striking tone and the overall look is atmospheric, somewhat reminiscent of a Vilhelm Hammershøi painting. The colour of the walls, a grey shade by *Pure & Original Paints* (pure-original.com), accentuates the couple's collection of modern art. Henrik and Tue are avid collectors; in this room, paintings by Ivan Andersen, Ulrik Møller and Kasper Bonnéen hang around a large circular dining table by Poul Kjærholm. 'We always choose art with our hearts rather than our heads, so there's no common thread in terms of the pieces that we own,' says Henrik.

The mood lightens in the main living space, where a simple white scheme highlights the original panelled doors and delicate stucco detailing on the ceiling. A backdrop of bright artworks brings colour and movement to the room. 'I like to work with contrasts, both in terms of colour, materials and shapes, and mixing antiques with contemporary designs,' says Henrik. 'It's important to me that an item's material and finish are of a high quality and that I choose pieces that will become more beautiful with time.'

A corridor from the dining room leads past the two bedrooms and bathroom and on to the kitchen, where Henrik has designed much of the bespoke furniture. The couple's favourite spot is the breakfast table. 'The design of the kitchen was important to us. Its size makes it possible for us to relax and entertain friends while cooking,' Henrik says. 'The fireplace creates a lovely atmosphere during the winter and the two large windows, which are east-facing, bring in the most beautiful afternoon light.' *thearchitectschoice.dk*





Dining room A 'PK54' table by Poul Kjærholm for Fritz Hansen takes centre stage. On the sideboard (detail opposite) is a brass bowl by Georg Jensen, a brand that homeowner Henrik (pictured opposite with his partner Tue) has worked with in the past
Stockist details on p254 ►





Opposite The apartment's classical architecture is complemented by simple furniture. Here, an antique chaise longue is paired with a chair by Hans Wegner and a lamp by Arne Jacobsen for Louis Poulsen


This page The sofa and ottoman are both part of Philippe Starck's '243 Volage' collection for Cassina
Stockist details on p254 ►

*'The design of the kitchen was really
important to us. Its size makes
it possible for us to relax and
entertain friends while cooking'*





Kitchen Homeowner and architect Henrik designed the cosy corner sofa, which has a built-in drawer. The bentwood dining chair is a classic piece by Norman Cherner (try 1st Dibs for originals) and the stool is by Mater. The worktop is made from Italian Pietra di Fossena limestone
Stockist details on p254 ►

A photograph of a modern bathroom. On the left is a double vanity with two white rectangular sinks and chrome faucets, mounted on a dark wooden frame. Below the vanity, a stack of white towels sits on a dark wooden shelf. In the center is a white toilet. To the right of the toilet is a white radiator with a black and white geometric pattern. Above the radiator is a window with a white frame. On the windowsill, there is a small potted plant, a gold-colored bowl, and some toiletries. The floor is made of large, dark grey tiles. On the right wall, there are three silver towel hooks and a white towel hanging from one of them. A white door with a brass handle is visible on the far right.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

At the weekend we start the day with a run in the park followed by breakfast and a read of the papers.

We love to host informal get-togethers on a weeknight and more formal dinners at the weekend. If there are more than six of us, we'll use the dining room, which has space for 36 guests.

The kitchen is our favourite spot. It's so cosy by the fireplace and we enjoy being able to have conversations while we cook.

A favourite memory here is the first dinner party that we held in the apartment. We had invited several government ministers and other prominent people, but the renovations of the apartment were delayed and we had not yet moved in completely. We relocated our Poul Kjærholm table to the living room and, as there was no electricity, we had to light candles. Then, we ordered a takeaway from a nearby restaurant.



Bathroom Henrik designed the pared-back furniture and the mirror. The 'Eklipta' wall lights are by Arne Jacobsen for Louis Poulsen
Bedroom This is the most neutral space in the apartment. It's all-white, apart from the black balsa-wood box by Danish brand Nomess on the windowsill and the simple Poliform bedside table
Stockist details on p254 ED



Living room The sofa is from Bo Concept and the glass-and-steel coffee table is a Paolo Piva design (try 1st Dibs for similar). The small Sori Yanagi 'Butterfly' stool is an example of the homeowners' love of Japanese-style minimalism. Stockist details on p254 ►

THE HEIGHT OF SIMPLICITY

Pared-back decoration and low-slung furniture, a look inspired by the homeowners' time spent studying in Japan, emphasise the scale of this 19th-century Parisian apartment

Words **TRISH LORENZ** Photography **HELENIO BARBETTA/LIVING INSIDE**



Situated in the bustling Le Marais district, this Parisian apartment, with its impressive high ceilings and ornate cornicing, is home to young architects Hugo Sauzay and Charlotte De Tonnact. The couple moved in two years ago, drawn to the 19th-century building by its sense of scale and original features – such as casement windows, which flood the space with light – as well as its prime location in the village-like neighbourhood.

At 90 square metres, this is not a huge apartment, but it is cleverly laid out. A central corridor divides the private rooms – bedroom, bathroom and kitchen – from the couple's large open-plan living area and office, which they use as a base for their architecture practice, Festen. 'The business is starting to outgrow the space, but it's great to work from home,' says Hugo. 'Our clients sit in the living room with the cat. It feels as if we're entertaining family rather than working.'

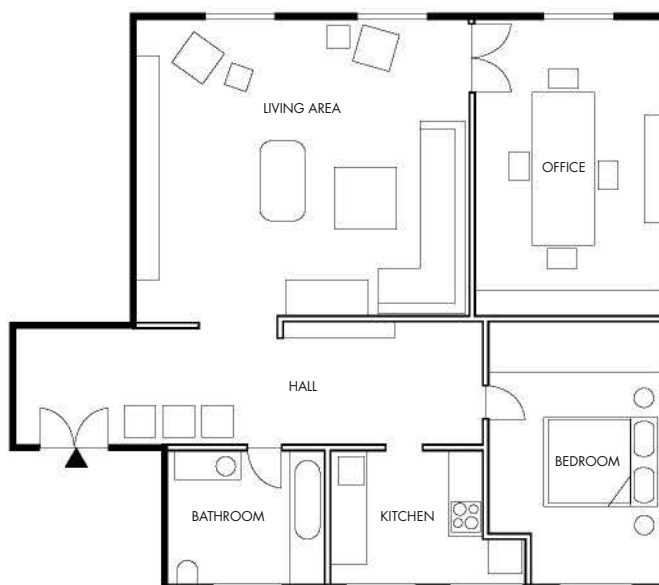
The duo's interior style is all about respecting the existing architecture. 'We really care about the story of a building and want to remain true to its atmosphere,' says Hugo. In their own home, they have opted for a low-key look, but the interior isn't minimalist – there are worn vintage pieces and personal treasures scattered in clusters around the apartment. This pared-back approach is a reflection of the couple's time spent living and studying in Japan.

The simplicity of the design affords the couple room to breathe and the low-slung furniture, such as the leather gym mattress that serves as a divan on the living room floor, emphasises the height and ornate detailing of the ceiling. 'We like the loftiness of the space and didn't want to compromise this,' Hugo explains. The white walls are another considered choice. 'Colour tends to be fashion-led and we don't want to be influenced in this way,' says Hugo. 'We are more like landscape architects, because we think about our projects in the long term. Right now, we're not trying to capture the aesthetic of 2015 – we are looking to 2020 and beyond.'

This future-focused outlook also led the pair to pick natural finishes such as wood and leather, which will mellow, with the patina changing over time. 'We like to use materials that will develop as the years go by. At the moment, we are not keen on our restored-wood floor, as it looks too new, but with sunshine and use, it will become perfect,' says Hugo.

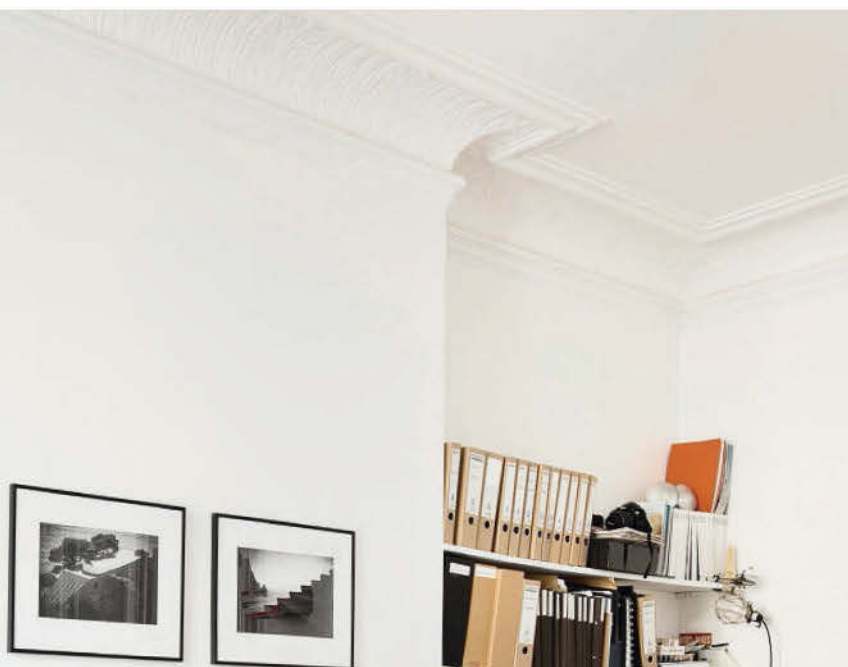
A mix of old and new pieces helps to give the home a timeless look. A strikingly modern light by Michael Anastassiades and a glass-and-steel coffee table by Paolo Piva sit comfortably alongside the apartment's more traditional features. Hugo describes this approach as a reflection of the French capital. 'It's all about combining traditional Parisian style – such as the mouldings and parquet – with purist contemporary design,' he says. 'I love Paris and, in this home, we both feel as if we are part of the story of the city.' *festenarchitecture.com*

'We are not trying to capture this year's aesthetic – we're looking to 2020 and beyond'



Living room The couple's Eames lounge chair and ottoman from The Conran Shop is pleasingly well worn, as is the vintage 1950s leather gym mattress on the floor, which serves as a divan. A 'Tube' chandelier by Michael Anastassiades hangs in the corner of the room
Stockist details on p254 ►





Office The couple work from home. Their desk, a large piece of wood mounted on trestle legs (try Ikea for a similar trestle), is paired with a 'Meridiana' chair by Christophe Pillet for Driade. A Harry Bertoia wire 'Diamond' chair for Knoll (above) provides extra seating for clients

Living room Parquet floors unite the living area and the office. The painting above the ornate fireplace is by Jean Faucher

Stockist details on p254 ►

‘Our clients often come and sit with the cat. It feels as if we’re entertaining family rather than working’





Hallway A taxidermied peacock – a flea-market find – perches on wire ‘Diamond’ chairs by Harry Bertoia. The geometric black light above is the ‘Con Tradition’ pendant by Sara Bernardi for Opinion Ciatti, while the minimalist metal coat rack was designed by the homeowners
Stockist details on p254

MY FAVOURITE THINGS

The two pictures in our office were gifts. They are by Matthew Brookes, who is a client and a friend, and depict Casa Malaparte, a famous contemporary home in Capri that Charlotte and I both love.

The peaceful view from our living room is of a nearby church. It's beautifully framed by the window.

I enjoy spending time in the courtyard at the Musée des Arts et Métiers (arts-et-metiers.net). It's a short walk from our apartment.

The district of Le Marais is villagey, but retains a Parisian atmosphere – lots of shops, galleries and cafes.

There are some great bars in this neighbourhood. I like Candelaria (candelariaparis.com) on rue de Saintonge, which has a Mexican theme, and the typically French Le Saint Gervais along the rue Vieille du Temple.

I love visiting OFR gallery (ofrsystem.com) on the rue Dupetit-Thouars. It always has cool stuff.



Bedroom The leather bedhead is a vintage piece (try Bill Amberg for bespoke versions). The bed linen is by Marie Sauzay and the lamp is the 'Tolomeo Micro Terra' by Michele de Lucchi & Giancarlo Piretti for Artemide. Stockist details on p254 **ED**

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ESCAPE

GET OUT AND ABOUT, WITH
OUR 14 TOP THINGS TO DO
IN THE UK AND BEYOND

#1 THE MOOMINS are a Finnish creation, but they love the warm weather just as much as we do. In the forthcoming new film, *Moomins on the Riviera*, the whole family, plus Snorkmaiden and Little My, leave Moomin Valley and head south in search of new adventures. Inspired by and based on Tove Jansson's original comic strips, the animation is hand-drawn in her trademark style. Out May 22 (moominsontheriviera.com).



FOR MORE PLACES TO EXPLORE, VISIT ELLEDECORATION.CO.UK/ESCAPE

#2 GET INTO THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Here are our top places to go for garden inspiration



An illustration of the Morgan Stanley space, designed by Chris Beardshaw for the RHS Chelsea Flower Show 2015. The garden will be donated to an East London community project



Whether you prefer to get back to nature by dining in an idyllic courtyard, exploring new developments in garden tech, or simply by taking a stroll through a field of fresh lavender, there's an event to suit your style this spring

From flower shows to open gardens, now is the time to embrace the outdoors. Here are our top destinations for the green-fingered.

RHS Chelsea Flower Show (May 19–23; rhs.org.uk) is the biggest event on the gardening calendar. We love the sound of scent-related spaces 'The Fragrance Garden' by Harrods and 'A Perfumer's Garden in Grasse' by L'Occitane, which is designed to represent the history of the perfume industry through flowers.

The Garden Museum ❶ is hosting an exhibition on the late Russell Page, an 'undisputed master of modern garden design'. Page was responsible for part of The Festival Pleasure Gardens in Battersea Park, designed for the 1951 Festival of Britain, and the garden at Villa Silvio Pellico (pictured), which he designed in 1956 (until June 21; gardenmuseum.org.uk).

GROW London ❷ at Hampstead Heath is a contemporary garden fair. Shop for furniture and unusual plants at the festival's stalls and book tickets for talks by garden writers Sarah Raven and Laetitia Maklouf (June 19–21; growlondon.com).

Open Garden Squares Weekend ❸ (June 13–14; opensquares.org) is an opportunity to explore some of London's little-known green spaces, from roof gardens to allotments.

The Ivy Chelsea Garden ❹ has a magical terrace, orangery and garden. Designed by Ginkgo Gardens with trailing wisteria, tinkling fountains, antique mirrors and climbing roses, it's a lovely place to dine in the evening (theivychelseagarden.com).

Chelsea Fringe Festival ❺ (May 16–June 7; chelseafringe.com) will feature brilliant outdoor-themed talks, most notably by author Margaret Willes, who will be speaking about 17th-century herbalist, botanist and radical apothecary Nicholas Culpeper.

Pick your own fruit and veg at Parkside Farm in Middlesex (parksidepyo.co.uk) or Hewitt's Farm in Kent (hewittsfarm.co.uk) – crops of asparagus and rhubarb will kick off the season.

Mayfield Lavender ❻ in Surrey is the perfect place to experience the heady scent of fresh lavender. July and August are the best months to visit this organic farm (mayfieldlavender.com).

loaf

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#3 VISIT AN ANTIQUES FAIR IN A COUNTRY HOUSE

*Enjoy a browse at one of the
UK's most beautiful estates*



The Petworth Park Antiques & Fine Art Fair

This new event is held in the grounds of the 17th-century, Grade I-listed Petworth House. Around 45 specialist dealers will showcase art and sculpture, including bronze statues by Rodin and paintings by Thomas Sidney Cooper. Your ticket also includes entry to the National Trust house (which recently featured in Mike Leigh's Oscar-nominated film *Mr Turner*) and the deer park. May 8–10 (petworthparkfair.com).

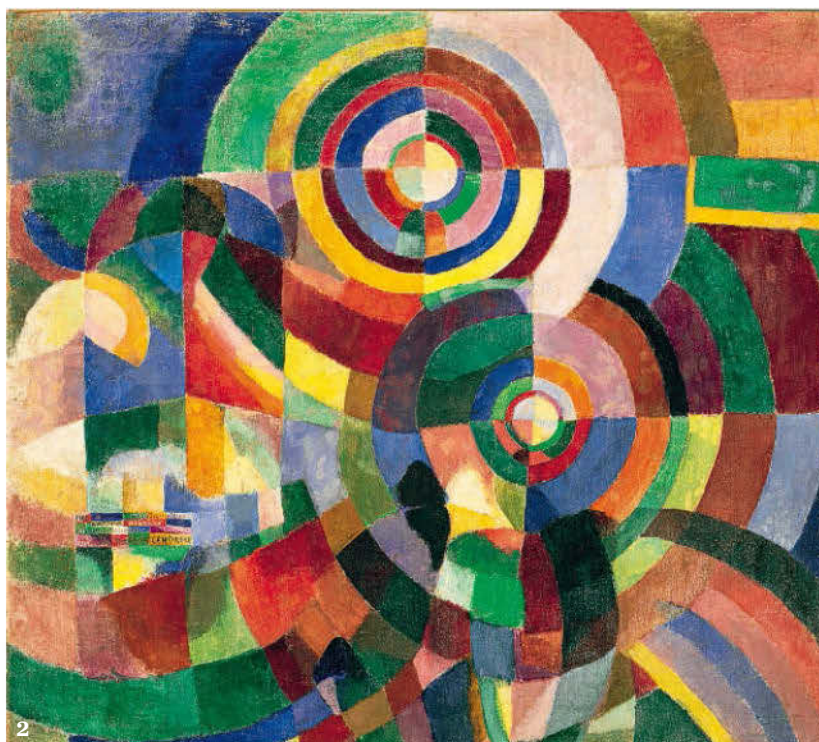
Kedleston Hall Antiques in the Park

This neoclassical National Trust mansion (pictured) in Derby, designed by architect Robert Adam, is the backdrop for 'Antiques in the Park', a well-established, twice yearly event where everything from jewellery to furniture is for sale. Leave time to have a look round the house itself, which is home to a treasure trove of fascinating objects picked up on the Curzon family owners' travels since the 12th century. June 26–28 (jaguarfairs.com).

Shugborough Estate

The ancestral home of the Earl of Lichfield, the Shugborough Estate near Stafford is a Georgian mansion house with a riverside garden set in 900 acres. In April, a small section of the grounds is taken over with a collectables fair: expect to find pottery, silverware, china and watches. Treat yourself to old-fashioned sweets from the shop, too. April 25–26 (shugborough.org.uk).

PICTURE: ALAMY/ANTIQUES FAIRS



#4 CELEBRATE WOMEN IN ART

This season the spotlight focuses on prolific female artists. Here are the top three exhibitions that you shouldn't miss

'Frida' ① at the Michael Hoppen Gallery features photographer Ishiuchi Miyako's images of Mexican artist Frida Kahlo's belongings. Following her death in 1954, Kahlo's husband Diego Rivera stored her personal effects in the bathroom of their Mexico City home and instructed that the room should stay sealed until 15 years after his death. When it was re-opened in 2003, Miyako was asked to photograph more than 300 artifacts (May 13–July 12; michaeltoppengallery.com).

'The EY Exhibition: Sonia Delaunay' ② at Tate Modern is the first UK retrospective of work by the 20th-century abstract artist. One of the Parisian avant-garde and renowned for her ideas about colour theory, Delaunay designed textiles and clothes as well as painting (April 15–August 9; tate.org.uk).

'A Greater Freedom: 1965–1975' ③ at The Hepworth Wakefield is the first of a trio of Barbara Hepworth exhibitions taking place this spring. It focuses on the last ten years of the artist's life and brings together key pieces in wood, stone, marble and bronze (April 18–April 2016; hepworthwakefield.org).

#5 GET DOWN TO BRIGHTON

Man Booker-nominated author Ali Smith CBE is the guest director of this year's multi-arts Brighton Festival, which looks set to be a corker. The programme is split into several themes: 'liberty, equality and freedom'; 'crossing places' and 'art and nature'. In the latter category, events include an immersive multi-screen film installation by artist Marcus Coates entitled 'Dawn Chorus', featuring singers who recreate birdsong; 'Gauge', an artistic interpretation of the issues surrounding weather and water (pictured); and a discussion about contemporary conservation issues with celebrated author and bird enthusiast Margaret Atwood. May 2–24 (brightonfestival.org).

#6 BOOK A TABLE THREE NEW RESTAURANTS

The latest crop of eateries to open in London combine striking design and delicious dishes



Babaji Pide

The interior of this Turkish restaurant in London's West End is designed by Istanbul studio Autoban: look out for the purple tiled wall, which features spotlights that emit a golden glow. Restaurateur Alan Yau is behind the menu, the highlight of which is, of course, the pides (flatbreads made with leavened dough). Toppings include courgette and goats cheese and lamb, tomato and pepper (babaji.com.tr).



The World's End Market

This all-day eatery has recently opened on the King's Road. Housed in a restored Grade II-listed building, the interior has an industrial vibe, with tiled walls and reclaimed wooden crates reworked as storage. The World's End uses produce from the butcher, fishmonger and grocer that are part of its sister restaurant, the Crystal Palace Market (theworldsendmarket.com).

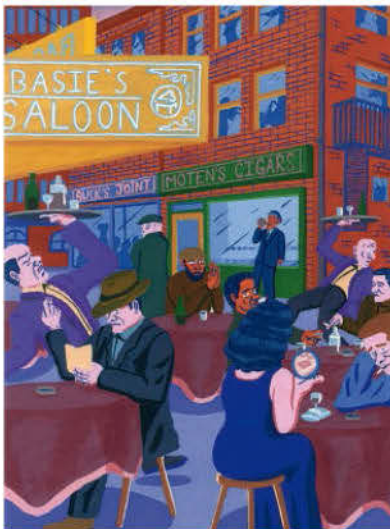


Murakami

This new Japanese restaurant on St Martin's Lane has a robata grill, a sushi bar and a living wall made of moss. The menu is vast, but highlights include tom yam soup with prawns, fillet of seabass with ginger sauce, and teriyaki and lime chicken wings. Whatever you feast on, pair it with one of the cocktails created by mixologists from cool Brixton bar Shrub and Shutter (murakami-london.co.uk).

#7 BE INSPIRED BY GRAPHIC ART

'Pick Me Up', the annual graphic arts festival at Somerset House, covers many mediums, from papercraft to digital illustrations. There will be a programme of debates and presentations, plus interactive workspaces that this year include animation studio Moth Collective and the Peckham Print studio. Plus, don't miss the first showing of 'Made You Look', a documentary about how the graphic arts industry has changed over the past 15 years. April 23–May 4 (somersethouse.org.uk).



PICTURES: ALAMY (HOUSE MUSEUM)



#8 VISIT A HOUSE MUSEUM

Take a day trip to these design time capsules, the homes of artists, politicians and novelists

STRAWBERRY HILL

Strawberry Hill in Twickenham is a fascinating folly – a modest house transformed into a 'little gothic castle' by Georgian novelist, antiquarian and politician Horace Walpole. Phase two of a major restoration has just been completed, so you can now admire five of Walpole's private rooms that have been unseen since the 18th century, alongside 20 more spaces that were re-opened in 2010. Expect to see the bold patterns and lavish colours that were fashionable in 1750s London: highlights include Walpole's bedroom, with its blue-and-gold flocked wallpaper, and his breakfast room, which contains a mix of 17th-, 18th- and 19th-century decorations (strawberryhillhouse.org.uk).

LAMB HOUSE

If you saw the BBC's adaptation of EF Benson's 1930s *Mapp and Lucia* novels at the end of last year, you'll doubtless have admired the elegant 18th-century house that the title characters spent much of their time squabbling over. The property featured is Lamb House in Rye (pictured above), which is open to the public and has been home to three much-loved writers: EF Benson himself, Henry James and Rumer Godden. It has a beautiful walled garden (where you will find the graves of Henry James' pet dogs) and visitors will also be able to admire a reconstruction of its garden room (which was destroyed during WWII), made especially for the BBC show (nationaltrust.org.uk).

7 HAMMERSMITH TERRACE

Tucked away on the banks of the River Thames in West London is this small but perfectly formed treasure. Once home to Emery Walker, friend and adviser to William Morris, it's the only remaining authentic urban Arts & Crafts interior, and was much loved by poet John Betjeman. The house faces an uncertain future, so visit it this spring and summer while you can, and make a donation to the Emery Walker Trust. You'll be rewarded with glimpses of Walker's fine collection of Morris & Co textiles and wallpapers, furniture by architect Philip Webb (who designed Morris's home, Red House), and collections of European and North African ceramics (emerywalker.org.uk).

EUROPEAN SPRING BREAKS

Fancy heading further afield? Our list of the top things to see and do continues on the continent

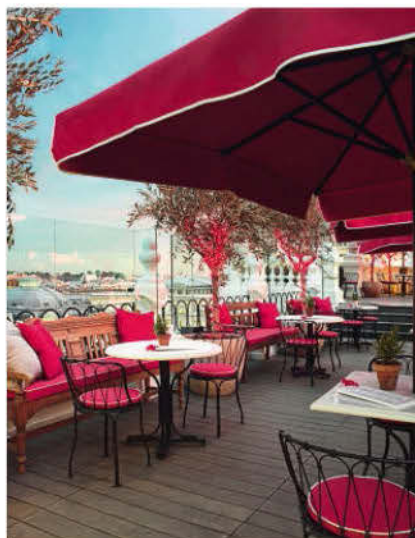
#9 BOOK A ROOM NEW HOTELS IN EUROPE

Where to stay if you're visiting Rome, Paris or Madrid



PARIS GENERATOR

Hip hostel group Generator's new outpost in the tenth arrondissement of Paris is big – the shared and private rooms hold nearly 1,000 beds between them. The interior is the work of The Design Agency, a Toronto-based practice co-founded by Generator's creative director Anwar Mekhayec; bedrooms have laminate floors and a light colour palette, and there are plenty of chill-out areas, including a restaurant serving traditional French dishes and a roof terrace that offers views of Montmartre. Private doubles from £70 (generatorhostels.com).



PRINCIPAL MADRID

In spring, the real draw at the Principal Madrid hotel is La Terraza, a lush rooftop conservatory with cypresses, olive trees and views of the city. If the sun isn't shining, no matter; inside, the historic Renaissance-style building feels like it's part members' club, part New York loft. On the top floors is a bar and Spanish eatery overseen by chef Ramón Freixa (his restaurant in sister property Hotel Único has two Michelin stars). Doubles from £146, Design Hotels (theprincipalmadridhotel.com; designhotels.com).



G-ROUGH, ROME

New ten-suite hotel G-Rough has a unique concept: each floor of the 17th-century building draws inspiration from a different Italian designer from the 1930s–1950s, such as Giò Ponti and Murano glassmaker Venini. Rooms are kitted out with original pieces, the bathrooms are extremely glamorous – think gold tiles on the walls and two-tone cast-iron bathtubs – and there's a cafe and bar on the ground level where works by local artists are on display. Doubles from £206, Design Hotels (g-rough.com; designhotel.com).

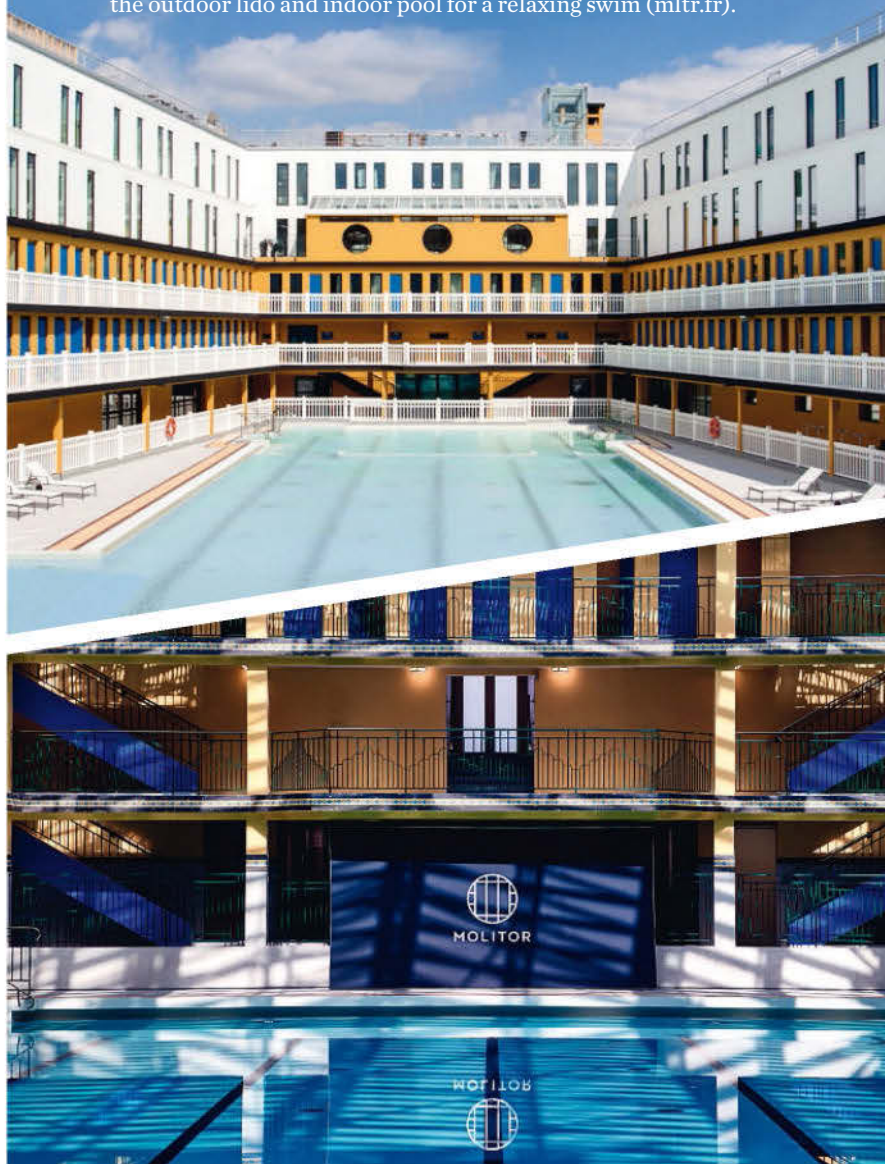


#10 VISIT A CULTURAL HOTSPOT

Architect Rem Koolhaas has designed a vast new Prada Foundation museum on the site of an old distillery complex in Milan. Opening in May with a classical sculpture exhibition, 'Serial Classic', curated by archaeologist Salvatore Settis, the museum will also house a permanent showcase of the Foundation's art collection. No visit would be complete without a bite to eat at the restaurant and bar, which has been decorated by film director Wes Anderson in the style of a 1950s cafe. Leave time to catch a show at the cinema, too. Its first screening is by Roman Polanski and intersperses clips from his past work with a compilation of his inspirations (fondazioneprada.org).

#11 RELAX BY THE POOL

Parisian Art Deco public pool Piscine Molitor has reopened as part of a luxury hotel and spa. One of the most fashionable places to see and be seen in the 1930s – the first ever photo shoot for the modern bikini took place here, and it later inspired the name for the main character in the novel *Life of Pi* – it shut down in 1989 and became a haunt for graffiti artists and late-night ravers. Now, thankfully, it's been restored to its former glory. Choose between the outdoor lido and indoor pool for a relaxing swim (mltr.fr).



PICTURES: ABACA/PRESS/BORISZUJANI (RELAX BY THE POOL, BOTTOM); ALAMY (Flea Markets)

#12 Get the insider info If you want to get under the skin of a new city, or discover a different take on a familiar one, sign up for Trip4Real, a Barcelona-based company backed by chef Ferran Adrià that offers tours and activities guided by residents. It works in a similar way to Airbnb: the local guides create a profile and set their price, and the whole system is regulated by reviews and ratings. Barcelona, Lisbon, Madrid, Paris and London are all covered and you can search for excursions that suit your interests (trip4real.com).

#13 EXPLORE FIRST-CLASS FLEA MARKETS

Searching abroad for great vintage? Don't stop at Paris: try these European gems, too



MUNICH

Every year, on the first Saturday of the spring festival *Frühjahrsfest*, Munich holds a huge flea market on the Theresienwiese (this year it's on April 17). It draws around 3,000 exhibitors, selling everything from furniture to books. If you miss this, head to Flohmarkt Riem, held every Saturday in Riem, on the outskirts of the city (flohmarkt-riem.com).

AMSTERDAM

Once a year, the Dutch government allows people to sell their wares on the streets without a permit. To mark the occasion, the Vrijmarkt flea market takes place nationwide (April 27). In Amsterdam, head straight to the Jordaan quarter for a selection of stylish bric-a-brac.

BRUSSELS

You can't miss the Marolles flea market, which takes place every morning in Place du Jeu de Balle in the centre of the city. Junk and antiques are displayed on sheets laid over the ancient cobbles.

VIENNA

Saturday's Flohmarkt am Naschmarkt, one of the largest and most established flea markets in the city, is surrounded by Art Nouveau buildings. Half of the 400 sellers are dedicated antique dealers (naschmarkt-vienna.com).



#14

ITALIAN MASTERS

'80! Molteni', the must-see anniversary exhibition heading to Milan this month

Words **AMY BRADFORD**

HELD IN MILAN'S neoclassical Galleria d'Arte Moderna, '80! Molteni' will celebrate the 80th anniversary of one of Italy's biggest manufacturers, the Molteni group. The company encompasses four great brands: home furniture label Molteni & C, office furniture makers Unifor and Citterio, and kitchen manufacturer Dada.

Curated by British designer Jasper Morrison, the exhibition traces the company from its beginnings in 1934, when it was founded by husband and wife Angelo and Giuseppina Molteni in the Italian region of Giussano, north of Milan. 'When we started to digitise our history for the Molteni Archive, we realised that there was an enormous amount of material, and this exhibition comes from that,' says Francesca Molteni, daughter of the company's president Carlo Molteni and curator of special projects for Molteni & C. 'It will showcase Molteni's unique style and its combination of industrial design and craftsmanship.'

The highlight of the display will be Molteni & C's complete collection of furniture by architect Giò Ponti, whose relationship with the brand lasted from 1935 to 1970, during which he produced icons such as the 'D.153.1' armchair (1953), which was created for his own Milan home. Visitors will also be able to see classic designs from each decade of Molteni's existence,



including Ron Gilad's 2012 'Grado' collection for Molteni & C and Richard Sapper's 1989 'Secretaire' cabinet for Unifor. There will also be archive materials and film footage relating to collaborations with star designers and architects such as Patricia Urquiola and Foster+Partners, offering a rare insight into the company's past and future. April 14–June 30; Galleria d'Arte Moderna, Via Palestro, 16 (80.molteni.it).

Clockwise from top left The 'Night & Day' seating collection by Patricia Urquiola for Molteni & C (2009); a kitchen by Dada that dates from the 1980s; an archive picture of the Molteni & C factory (1960); the 'Grado' collection by Ron Gilad for Molteni & C (2012); a vintage prototype sideboard by Carlo de Carli (1964); the 'D.153.1' armchair by Giò Ponti for Molteni & C (1953)

PICTURES: JOHAN SENKRAUSE (SIDBOARD)

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ARCHITECTURAL ICON THE GLASS HOUSE, CONNECTICUT

Philip Johnson's Modernist home and creative meeting place

Words **JAMES WILLIAMS**

'ARCHITECTURE IS THE DESIGN OF INTERIORS, the art of organising interior space,' Philip Johnson once said. Nowhere is this thinking more evident than in his minimalist home, known as the Glass House, in New Canaan, Connecticut, where he lived for nearly 60 years. When designing the building, Johnson took inspiration from his past experiences: he studied architecture at Harvard University under the tutelage of Walter Gropius, founder of the famous Bauhaus design school in Germany, and was the first director of the Department of Architecture at the Museum of Modern Art in New York. Here, he curated exhibitions of the work of a number of architects, including Mies van der Rohe in 1947. This showcase featured an early model of Van der Rohe's design for the Farnsworth House – a key influence on Johnson's own Glass House.

Unlike the Farnsworth House, Johnson's design is symmetrical; a single room, 16 metres long and ten metres wide, with a central floor-to-ceiling brick column that contains the bathroom. The building's elegant structure is as important as what's inside it. The boundaries between indoors

and out are ambiguous, with each glass panel acting as a picture frame displaying the house's verdant surroundings.

Johnson spent three years building the house, which was completed in 1949. He then spent the next 40 years adding other elements, such as a lake pavilion and art galleries, to the impressive 47-acre grounds. He saw the Glass House not just as a home for himself, but also as a communal workspace. Andy Warhol, Frank Gehry, and Richard Meier were just some of the visitors who came here to meet and collaborate on projects, alongside Johnson's partner, art collector and curator David Whitney.

When the Glass House was built, it was seen as a radical design and won global recognition: Johnson was praised by *The New York Times* for creating a Modernist masterpiece at a time when America viewed architecture in traditional terms. He lived at the house until he died in 2005. Two years later,

the building opened to the public and since then it has been cared for by America's National Trust for Historical Preservation. 199 Elm Street, New Canaan, CT 06840 (theglasshouse.org).





THE FAR PAVILION

If you missed Chilean architect Smiljan Radić's Serpentine Pavilion (pictured) last year, now you can see it in its new permanent home at the Hauser & Wirth gallery in Somerset. The shell-like structure has been installed at the end of the Piet Oudolf Open Field, the perennial meadow created by the legendary garden designer. To celebrate, the gallery is hosting an 'Architecture Season'. Dan Graham's one-way mirror, *S-Curve* will be on show and sound artist Susan Philipsz's piece *As Many as Will*, inspired by the site's 18th-century Threshing Barn, is another highlight. There will also be talks by Luis Laplace, Ab Rogers and, of course, Radić himself. Until June 21 (hauserwirthsomerset.com).

CHANGING SPACES

New exhibition 'Urbanistas: The Women Changing the Design of Our Cities Today' at Roca London Gallery showcases groundbreaking projects by female architects working in the UK right now. Highlights include AWP's plan for a cycling hub at Newcastle's Malmo Quay (pictured) and Alison Brooks' reinterpretation of the London suburb of Barnet. Until 27 June (rocalondongallery.com).



WORDS: EMMA LOVE

GOLDEN THREAD

An award-winning cultural centre and artists' residence, Thread, has opened in the remote Senegalese village of Sinthian. Designed by New York-based Japanese architect Toshiko Mori and made from locally sourced materials, it is the latest initiative from the Josef and Anni Albers Foundation. The building will host a cultural exchange programme: upcoming residencies include Siri Johansen, who is a senior knitwear designer for Kenzo, and Wayne McGregor's Random Dance Company. Later this year, a selection of works by Josef Albers will be auctioned off at Christie's New York to raise money to fund the project for the next decade (thread-senegal.org).



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MILAN *special*

From May 1, Milan will play host to Expo, the global design fair that takes place every five years (the last time that it was held in Milan was 1906). The city will be buzzing with events centred on this year's theme, 'Feeding the Planet, Energy for Life'. In preparation, we step off of the well-trodden tourist trail to discover Italy's design capital through the eyes of its most stylish residents. Plus, meet the artisans and artists who are making new creative district 5 Vie the most fashionable place to shop, stay and be seen. Expo Milano 2015, May 1–October 31 (expo2015.org)

MILAN: SECRETS OF THE STYLISH

Five of the hottest names in Italian design reveal their favourite local places to visit in the city

Photography **MAX ROMMEL** Edited by **SARAH MORGAN**



MONICA CASTIGLIONI

The jewellery designer, who creates unique pieces using bronze, has a studio in Isola, the northern part of Milan (monicacastiglioni.com)

For breakfast I'd recommend Les Pommes – it sells delicious croissants (Via Pastrengo, 7; lespommes.it).

If you like modern Chinese cuisine then Bistro Sofia, which is ideally located just in front of the Blue Note jazz club, is a great place to go for dinner (Via Borsieri, 30; sofiabistro.it).

For the best views of the city, you can't beat Torre Branca in Parco Sempione – standing at 108 metres tall, it's the highest vantage point accessible to the public (Viale Giovanni Milton).

For finely crafted furniture, visit Costanza Algranti – my home is full of his work (Via Pepe, 20–28; costanzaalgranti.it).

On Sundays I like to visit Nonostante Marras, a magical fashion showroom (Via Cola di Rienzo, 8; antoniomarras.it).



- 1 Les Pommes
- 2 Costanza Algranti
- 3 Nonostante Marras





PIERO LISSONI

The architect, designer and art director, who works with the likes of Living Divani,

Poltrona Frau and Glas Italia, is based just north of the city centre in the beautiful Brera district (lissoniassociati.com)

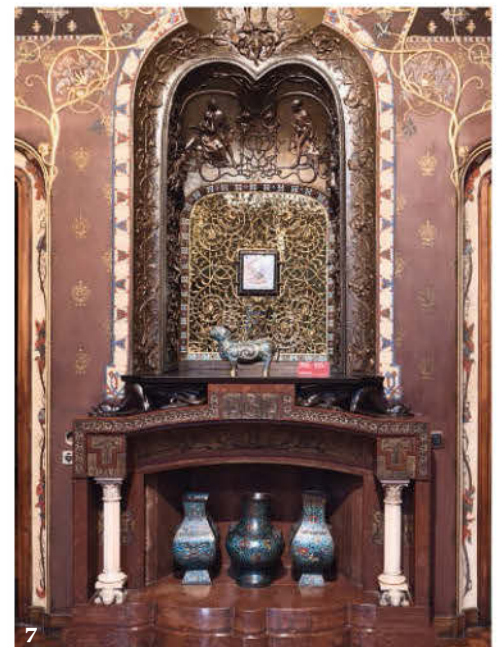
For Italian food, try La Latteria. It's a tiny place that doesn't take bookings and serves simple, excellent dishes (Via San Marco, 24; latteriadicameri.it). Or, head to bakery Princi. It's known as the 'Armani of bread' (Piazza XXV Aprile, 5).

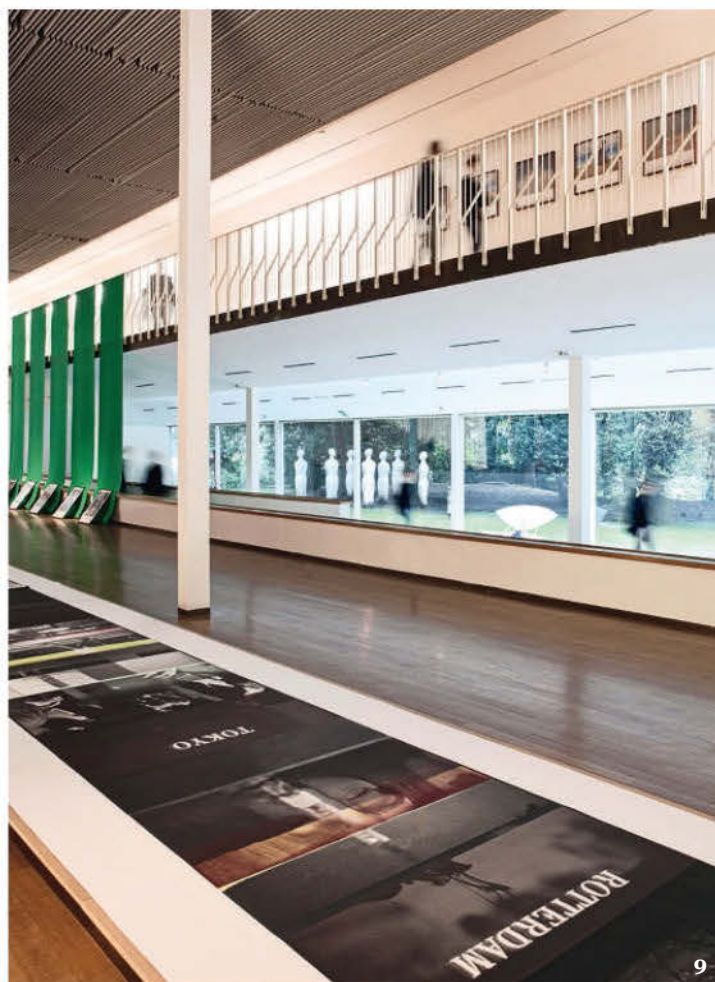
Two historic house museums in the city that I love to visit for inspiration are Poldi Pezzoli (Via Manzoni, 12; museopoldipezzoli.it) and the Bagatti Valsecchi (Via Gesù, 5; museobagattivalsecchi.org).

To buy gifts, I go to the fashion district – the area within Via della Spiga, Via Manzoni, Via Monte Napoleone and Corso Venezia. Galleria Vittorio Emanuele II, one of the world's oldest malls, has something for everyone. Stop for a coffee at Cova, a decadent 19th-century space (Via Monte Napoleone, 8; pasticceriacova.it). ➤



4 Museo Poldi Pezzoli
5 Princi
6, 7 Museo Bagatti Valsecchi





FERRUCCIO LAVIANI

Kartell's art director has a studio behind the Indro Montanelli public gardens, a city park that lies northeast of the Duomo (laviani.com)

Foodies should visit Latteria Carlon

(Via Tommaso Salvini, 2) to sample excellent meat dishes, and then step next door to Panetteria Giordano, which makes some of the finest cakes in Milan.

A lovely reading spot is on the old iron chairs outside the Padiglione D'Arte Contemporanea (Pavilion of Contemporary Art) in the Indro Montanelli public gardens (Via Palestro, 14; pacmilano.it).

For alternative exhibitions, visit Nilufar Gallery. It always shows interesting works of art (Via della Spiga, 32; nilufar.com).

More than just a pastry shop, Taveggia is an institution in Milan. I can personally recommend the delicious Sachertorte (Via Uberto Visconti di Modrone, 2; taveggia.it).



- 8 Nilufar Gallery
- 9 Padiglione D'Arte Contemporanea
- 10 Latteria Carlon



RODOLFO DORDONI

The Milanese designer, who has created furniture for Cassina and Moroso and is art

director for Minotti and Roda, works in the city's Chinatown, in the north of Milan (rodolfodordoni.it)

The Catalan-style lobster on the menu at Trattoria Il Pescatore is so delicious that patrons are willing to wait in line for it – you can't book a table here (Via Atto Vannucci, 5; trattoriadelpescatore.it).

I love A Santa Lucia, a historic pizzeria frequented by opera-goers coming out of La Scala (Via San Pietro All'Orto, 3).

A fabulous museum is La Museo del Duomo. Artifacts relating to the Duomo's history are on display (Via Arcivescovado, 1).

My top tip for ice cream is Vasa Vasa, which serves traditional Sicilian gelato (Via Spartaco, 38; vasavasa.it).

Explore the shelves of Elettricità Camoletto, an electrical shop near Piazza Gae Aulenti that has been in business since 1943 (Corso Como, 8). ➤



11

11 La Museo del Duomo

12 Elettricità Camoletto

13 A Santa Lucia



12



13



MICHELE DE LUCCHI

The Italian architect's studio is in the city's Garibaldi area, near Milan's major train station (amdl.it)

I enjoy having breakfast at Radetzky, where you can sit, read a newspaper and enjoy the atmosphere (Corso Garibaldi, 105; radetzky.it).

Hotel 3 Rooms is a great place to stay. It's on the same site as the Carla Sozzani gallery (Corso Como 10; 10corsocomo.com).

Opposite my studio, there's a gallery called Exits, owned and styled by furniture brand Bassam Fellows (Via Varese, 14).

For a bite to eat, my usual spot is Osteria Don. I've had lunch there almost every day for the past six years (Via Varese, 17).

Rossignoli cycle shop is an essential resource for me as I travel everywhere by bike (Corso Garibaldi, 71; rossignoli.eu).

If I were buying a gift for a friend, I would head straight to Gipsoteca Fumagalli & Dossi. It's a wonderful place that makes plaster casts (Via Montello, 4; fumagallidossi.com). **ED**



14



15



16

14 Galleria Carla Sozzani
15 Radetzky
16 Rossignoli
17 Exits



17



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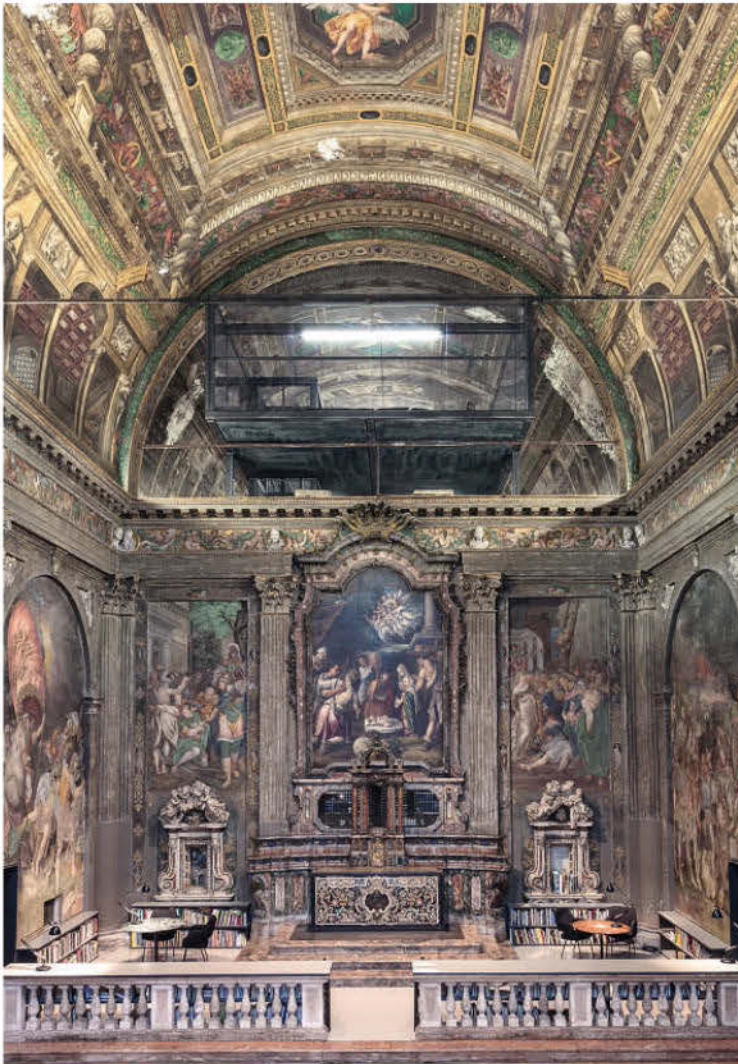
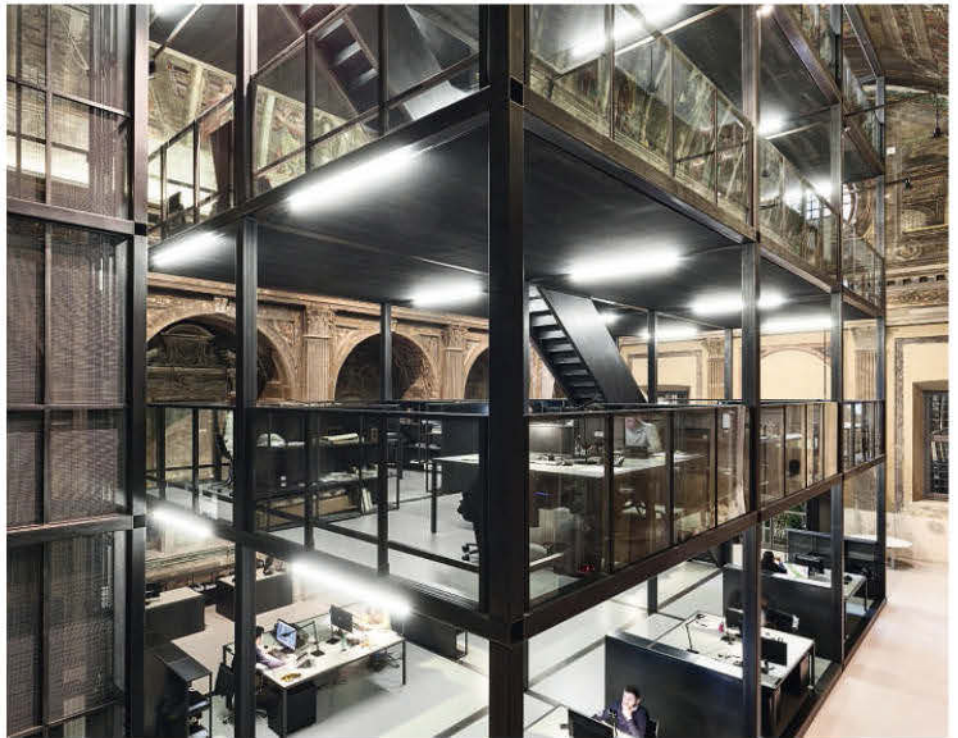
MILAN: ARCHITECTURAL HIGHLIGHT

*Marvel at the converted San Paolo Converso,
possibly the most inspiring workspace in the world*

Words JACKIE DALY Photography RUX TEIXEIRA/LIVING INSIDE



SAN PAOLO CONVERSO (Church of Saint Paul), which dates from 1546, is decorated with breathtaking frescoes by Cremonese masters Giulio, Antonio and Vincenzo Campi. From the outside, it retains its Baroque façade, designed in 1613 by the painter and architect Giovan Battista Crespi. Inside, the modern office space created by CLS Architetti consists of a series of glass boxes stacked over four floors within a black-iron structure. The minimalist design ensures that the artistry of Italy's past masters remains in full view from every angle. Bespoke neon lighting, designed by CLS Architetti in collaboration with Flos, is attached directly to the iron frame. There's also a library in the altar area and meeting rooms beneath the building's vast arches. The architects have preserved the public church that rests at the front of the site. It remains open to all, but is now an exhibition and meeting space for artists rather than a place of worship. *Piazza Sant'Eufemia (clsarchitetti.com)*



Opposite Original frescoes by Giulio, Antonio and Vincenzo Campi, dating back to the 16th century, decorate the walls of this modern meeting room **This page, from top** The four-storey black-iron office structure stands at the centre of the original convent at the rear of the church. Framed by glass, it offers a panoramic view of the frescoes; the top floor of the workspace, which houses the partners' offices, cantilevers over an original lunette – a half moon-shaped recess under the arched roof; the church's Baroque façade, designed in 1613 by the painter and architect Giovan Battista Crespi, makes an imposing first impression **ED**



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MILAN: THE NEW ARTS QUARTER

The city has a new cultural heart. Dubbed 5 Vie (Five Streets), it's home to a buzzing creative scene. Here, we meet the artists and designers that are making it the place to be

Words **JACKIE DALY**

Photography **LEA ANOUCHINSKY/LIVING INSIDE**



WHAT TO SEE

1 MUSEO DEL NOVECENTO

Located within the Arengario palace, a short walk from 5 Vie, this gallery is the best place to get a bird's-eye view of the Duomo – especially if you want to steer clear of the crowds.

Palazzo dell'Arengario, Via Marconi, 1 (museodelnovecento.org)

2 GARAGE SANREMO

Arriving at this auto-repair garage is like stepping back in time to the 1950s.

Unaltered by the regeneration around it, it's an edgy urban venue supporting modern design. During the Milan Furniture Fair, the space will display designer Max Lamb's new work, 'Exercises in Seating'.

Via Zecca Vecchia, 3 (00 39 028 645 23 25)

3 THE FINGER SCULPTURE

Maurizio Cattelan's one-fingered marble salute is the rebellious face of Milan's art scene. The 11-metre-tall sculpture provoked a furore when it was unveiled outside the Borsa Italiana in 2010. Ever the provocateur, Cattelan donated the sculpture to Milan on the condition that it stays at the heart of the financial district. *Piazza Affari*

4 HIDDEN GARDENS

Concealed behind Milan's brash business façade is a network of secret gardens and courtyards. Find respite along the Via Cappuccio in the quiet cloister of Santa Maria Maddalena al Cerchio, a 15th-century convent that was restored in 1915. *Via Cappuccio, 7*



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3



4

WHERE TO EAT

5 BOIDEM

The name of this restaurant and concept store, opened by husband-and-wife team Talor Noam and Moran Sulmurski Noam (pictured right), loosely translates as 'closet' or 'attic' in Yiddish. Boidem is a place to shop, dine on delicious street food-inspired dishes or just hang out among the cool, creative displays of homeware, fashion items and furniture, which all have an enigmatic, Israeli twist.

Via Santa Marta, 3

(boidemilan.wix.com/theboidem)

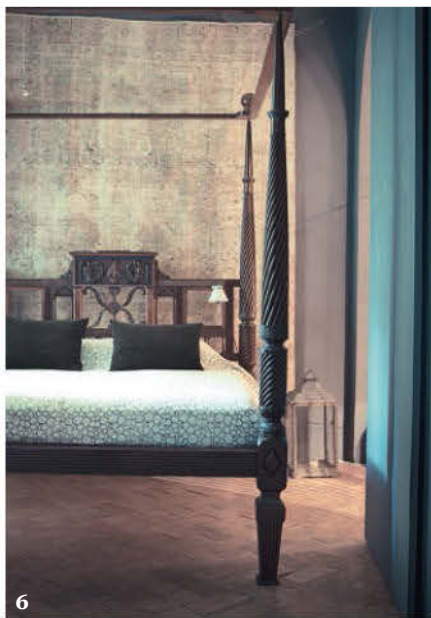


WHERE TO STAY

6 ARJUMAND'S HOME B&B

A bohemian oasis in the heart of the city, this guesthouse is owned and designed by Italian interior decorator, textile and wallpaper designer Idarica Gazzoni – and is connected to her showroom and private apartment. Housed within a former carpenters workshop, the charming space brims with vibrant designs and artwork from Gazzoni's own collections, as well as pieces from local Milanese stores.

From £177 per night, three-night minimum stay; Via Santa Marta, 11 (arjumandsworld.com) ►





8



8



9



7

WHERE TO SHOP

7 OSANNA E MADINA VISCONTI DI MODRONE

Jeweller Osanna Visconti di Modrone has created an eclectic home and atelier within the walls of a 16th-century palace, where she works with her daughter, Madina (both pictured above). Hidden behind a private courtyard, and created by Osanna in collaboration with local design studio Dimore, the ground-floor showroom is a trove of sculptural pieces that replicate natural forms. Osanna and Madina's collections have expanded over the years to include bowls, candlesticks and, most recently, lustrous cast-bronze furniture, which they make to order. *Via Santa Marta, 13 (osannavisconti.it)*

8 WAIT AND SEE

Uberta Zambelletti's (pictured left) small but original store has a cult following among Milanese locals. The fashion designer, stylist, interior decorator and design consultant, who has worked for Italian powerhouses such as Missoni, Max Mara and Etro, creates one-off pieces: many are made exclusively for the shop. *Via Santa Marta, 14 (waitandsee.it)*

9 BDDW

This high-end furniture and homeware store, nestled on one of Milan's oldest streets, is the American brand's first flagship in Italy. Its founder, Tyler Hays, is a ceramicist, woodworker and self-proclaimed 'hillbilly' who loves using American hardwoods. The stripped-back, sun-bleached plaster walls of the shop's interior create a calm ambience that reflects the simple beauty of Hays' designs. *Via Santa Marta, 19 (bddw.com)*

10 ALBERTO LEVI GALLERY

At this studio, rugs are works of art. The venue promotes an appreciation of antique textiles and the intricate craft of rug making. Descending to the gallery's vaults is akin to entering an Aladdin's cave: expect to find Persian antiquities, mid-century classics and contemporary pieces by designers such as Allegra Hicks. *Via San Maurizio, 24 (albertolevi.com)*



10

11 RUBELLI

Discover on-trend patterns while perusing new ranges by Rubelli, Armani/Casa and Dominique Kieffer at this stunning showroom in the neoclassical 16th-century Palazzo Greppi. The modern collections, including furniture and lighting by Donghia, are complemented by original frescoes and terrazzo floors. *Via San Maurizio, 19 (rubelli.com)*



11

12 LABORATORIO PARAVICINI

Working from their small studio in the heart of the city since 1990, Benedetta Medici and Costanza Paravicini (both pictured below) are on a mission to bring beauty back to the dining table. They produce hand-painted porcelain plates in limited-edition runs. The shop is open Monday to Friday: to visit in the afternoon, you'll need to book an appointment. *Via Nerino, 8 (paravicini.it)* **EO**



12



12

Address book



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A

Adi Kalusteet (adi.fi)
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Aram Store (aram.co.uk)
Arclinea (arclinea.it)
Arketipo (arketipo.com)
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Avarte (avarte-cn.com)
B
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Bo Concept (boconcept.com)

C

Cassina (cassina.com)
Chaplins (chaplins.co.uk)
Coexistence (www.coexistence.co.uk)

D

De La Espada (delaespada.com)
Driade (driade.com)

E

EDC (edclondon.com)
Eilersen (eilersen.eu)

F

Fendi Casa (fendi.com)
Flexform (flexform.it)
Flou (flou.it)
Fritz Hansen (fritzhansen.com)

G

Gallotti & Radice (gallottiradice.it)
Georg Jensen (georgjensen.com)
Gervasoni (gervasoni1882.it)
Glas Italia (glasitalia.com)
Golran (www.golran.com)

H

Harrods (harrods.com)
Heal's (heals.co.uk)
Hülsta (huelsta.co.uk)

J

Julian Chichester (julianchichester.com)

K

Karl Andersson (karl-andersson.se)
Knoll (knoll-int.com)

L

Lee Broom (leebroom.com)
Lema (lemamobili.com)
Liberty (liberty.co.uk)
Liquid Design (liquiddesign.co.uk)
Living Divani (livingdivani.it)
Louis Poulsen (louispoulsen.com)
Luceplan (luceplan.com)
Luke Irwin (lukeirwin.com)

M

Mater (mater.dk)
Meridiani (meridiani.it)
Michael Anastassiades (michaelanastassiades.com)
Minotti (minottilondon.com)
Mint (mintshop.co.uk)
Missoni (missoni.com)
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Moroso (moroso.it)

N

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Nest (nest.co.uk)
Nomess (nomess.dk)

O

Opinion Ciatti (opinionciatti.com)
Orientalist Rugs (orientalist rugs.com)

P

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Poliform (poliformuk.com)
Porada (porada.it)
Porro (porro.com)

R

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S

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SCP (www.scp.co.uk)
Skandium (skandium.com)
Sori Yanagi (soriyanagi.com)

T

The Lollipop Shoppe (thelollipopshoppe.co.uk)
Twenty Twenty One (twentytwentyone.com)

V

Viaduct (viaduct.co.uk)
Vitra (vitra.com)

Outdoors

A

Annie Sloan (anniesloan.com)
Arbordeck (arbordeck.co.uk)
Arper (arper.com)

B

Bolon (bolon.com)
Boskke (www.boskke.com)
Bulbo (bulbolight.com)

C

Calligaris (calligaris.co.uk)
Casalis (casalis.be)
Charles Edwards (charlesedwards.com)
Clear Water Revival (clear-water-revival.com)
Clifton Nurseries (clifton.co.uk)
Cox & Cox (coxandcox.co.uk)

D

DCW Editions (dcw-editions.fr)
De Castelli (decastelli.it)
Dedon (dedon.de)
Design House Stockholm (designhouse stockholm.com)

E

Emu (emu.it)
Exteta (exteta.it)

F

Farrow & Ball (farrow-ball.com)
Fermob (fermob.com)
Flos (flos.com)

G

Go Modern (gomodern.co.uk)

H

Habitat (habitat.co.uk)
House Doctor (housedoctor.dk)

I

Ikea (ikea.co.uk)
Indian Ocean (indian-ocean.co.uk)

J

JD Beardmore (beardmore.co.uk)
John Cullen (johncullenlighting.co.uk)
John Lewis (johnlewis.com)

K

Keir Townsend (keirtownsend.com)

Kettal (kettal.com)

Kirkby Design (kirkbydesign.com)

Kloeber (kloeber.co.uk)

Kos (zucchettikos.it)

L

Laorus (laorus.fr)
Ligne Roset (ligne-roset.co.uk)
Llot Llov (lloillov.de)

M

Manufactum (manufactum.co.uk)
Marset (marset.com)
Menu (menu.as)
Mjolk (store.mjolk.ca)
Modernica (modernica.net)

N

N by Naber (n-by-naber.com)

O

Osborne & Little (osborneandlittle.com)

P

Paola Lenti (paolalenti.it)

R

Ralph Lauren (ralphlaurenhome.com)
Roda (rodaonline.com)
Röshults (roshults.se)

S

Serax (serax.com)
Sunbeam Jackie (sunbeamjackie.com)

T

Tai Ping (taipingcarpets.com)
The Chelsea Gardener (chelseagardener.com)

The Conran Shop (conranshop.co.uk)

The New England

Shutter Company (thenewenglandshutter company.com)
Treebox (treebox.co.uk)

U

Urban Front (urbanfront.co.uk)

V

Very Wood (verywood.it)
Vipp (vipp.com)

W

W6 Garden Centre (w6gardencentre.co.uk)
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Z

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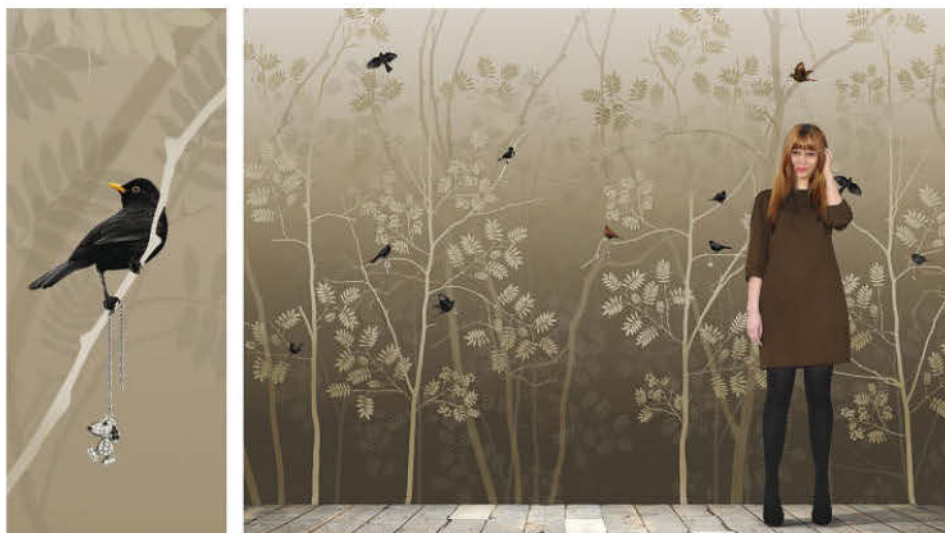


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LUXURY LIVING

Stylish essentials to liven up your home



SCANDINAVIAN SURFACE

Norwegian design company Scandinavian Surface mural 'The Last Emperor, bronze' is inspired by the intriguing story from beautiful China. A misty oriental forest, shades of bronze colours, memories of silk embroidery and singing blackbirds in the silent dawn of a new day... 'The Last Emperor' is also available in a jade colour scheme.

Have a closer look at www.scandinaviansurface.com

Scandinavian Surface mural designs are to be found in public spaces and private homes all over the world. The designers are: Åsne Midtgarden, Ann-Tove Engenes, Kristine Dybwad and Elisabeth Ellefsen. Order at www.photowall.co.uk (or the webshop for your country) and check out their remarkable customer service!



BIGDESIGN

I want to change the point of view of a society most often standardised. To do this you must change your point of view. Pulse Lamp by bigdesign is the result of all this. An eco-design lamp where the glass base is derived from the creative recycling of a pitcher, and inside is wrapped the electric canvas cable, that with its bright colours becomes the highlight of the lamp. www.bigdesignstudio.it

JOELLE JOY

Joelle Joy is a Detroit, USA-based professional photographer, specialising in three-panel canvas art, creating unique home décor by capturing nature from exotic locales. Take a look, as you will find a large variety of affordable original art, including something that should fit your home or business. To purchase art or learn more about her photography contact her at joellejoy.com or visit joellejoy.etsy.com



FUTURE DAYS

Chrome Waves is the paper vase that you place over your plastic bottle, as a cover. The vase got its name from a chillingly futuristic song by the british band Ride. The colour inspiration comes from Molly Ringwald's rosy cheeks and Roxy Music's LP Flesh + Blood. Recommended retail price in shops is £16.95. Find out more at www.futuredays.se, free worldwide shipping!



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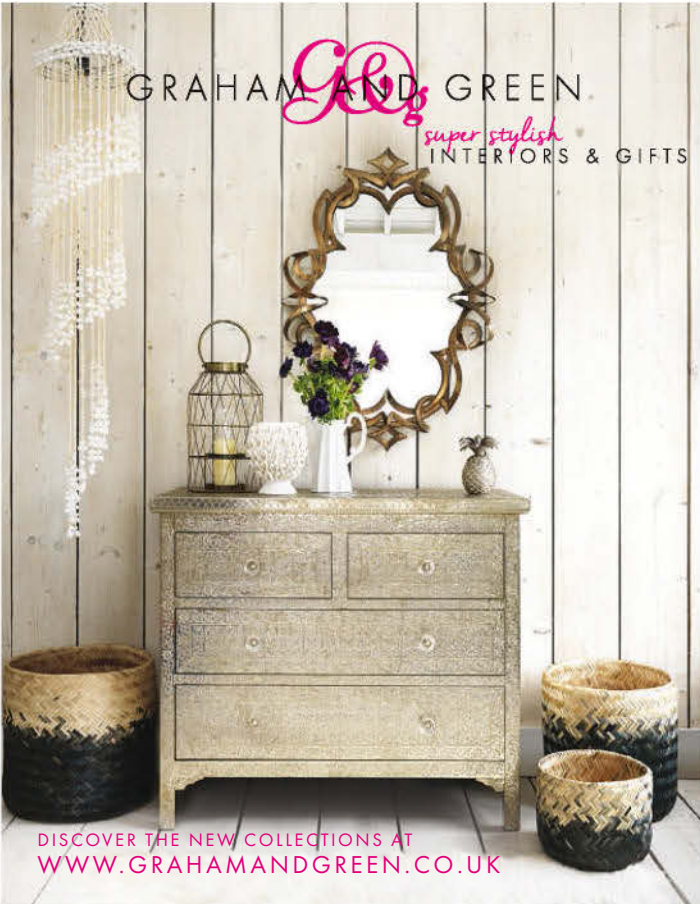


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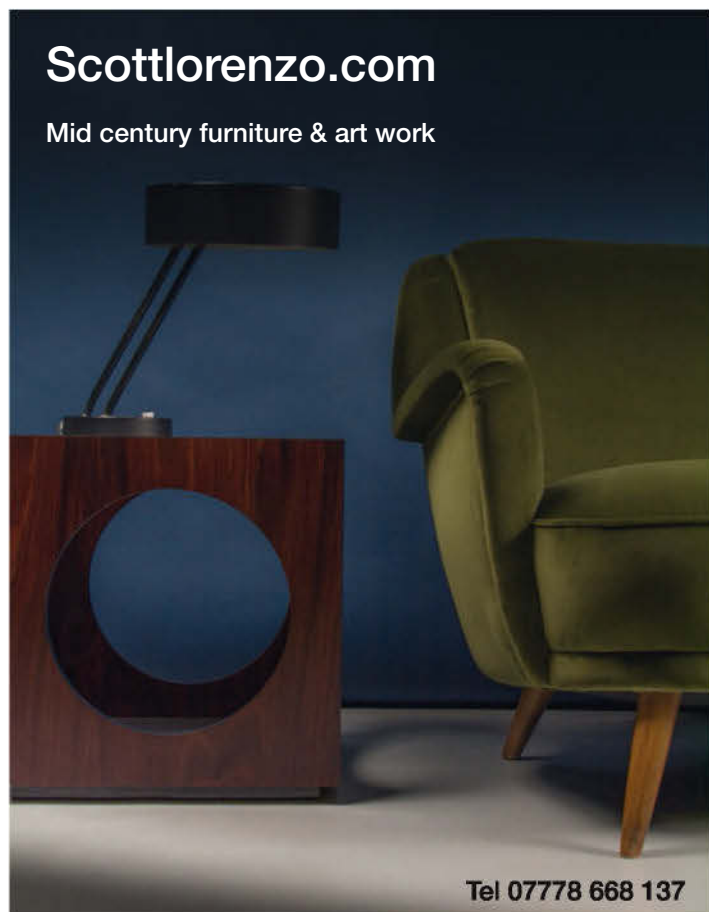
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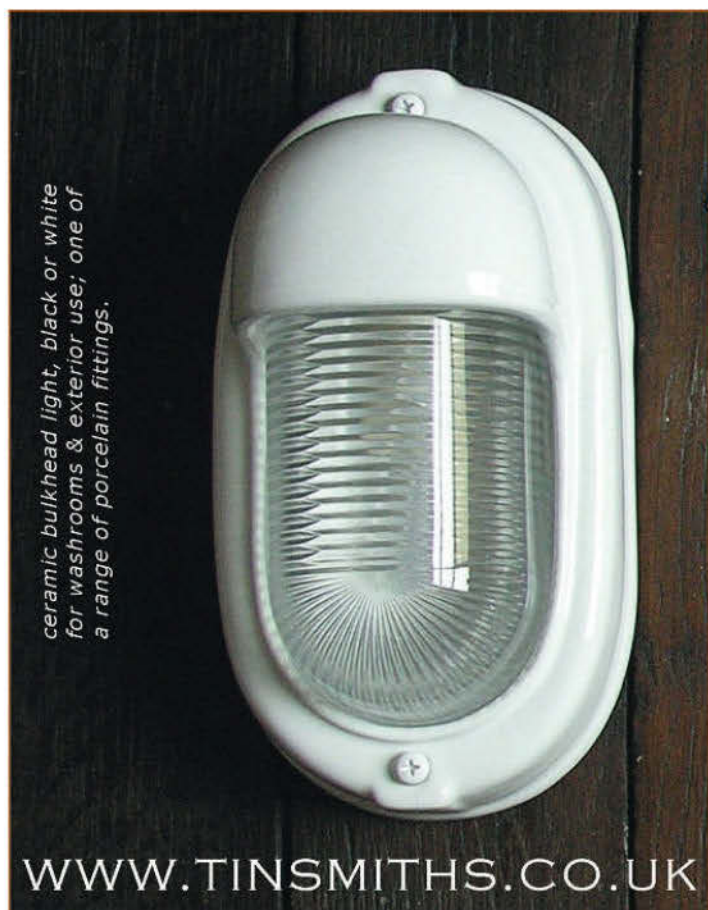
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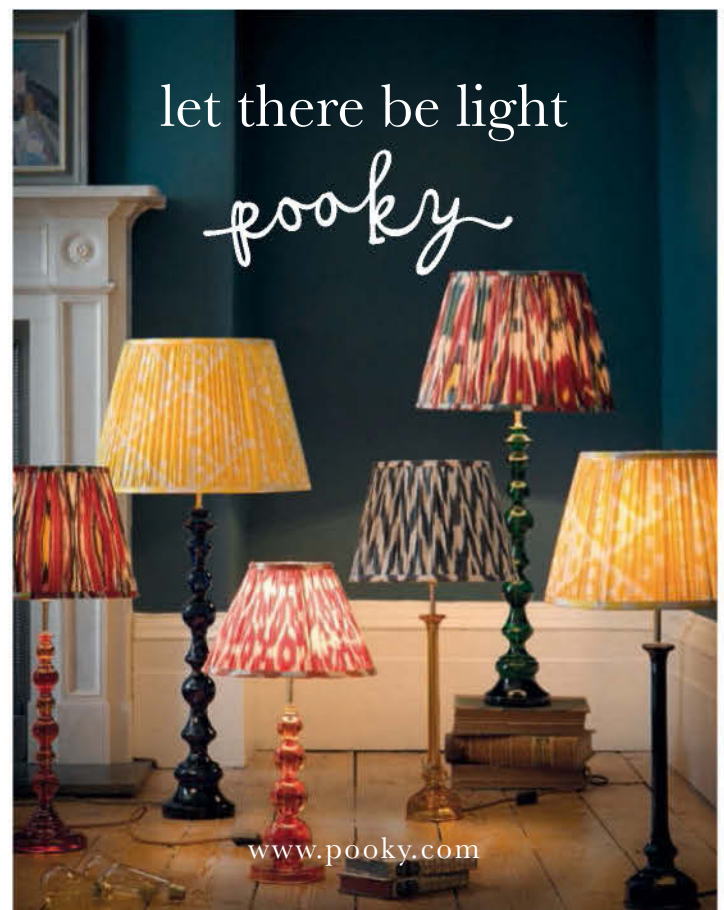
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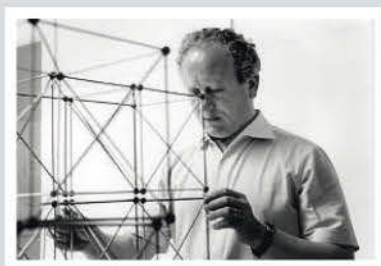
11. 'Haller' modular system by USM

Words **JAMES WILLIAMS**

USM's modular storage system is one of the finest examples of form following function. In 1961, the company (known for metalwork and engineering) decided to expand its factory and offices in Münsingen, Switzerland, under the direction of Paul Schaerer, grandson of the brand's founder Ulrich Schaerer. Swiss architect Fritz Haller was commissioned to design a new building. The ingenious result consisted of a modular steel frame that could be extended over time to allow the factory floor to increase in size according to production rates. In 1963, USM went on to create a line of furniture for the interior of its headquarters using the same expandable structure. Two years later, in 1965, the 'Haller' range was put into general production and unveiled to the world; the Rothschild bank in Paris was the first big buyer. The product's appeal was simple – it was the first system that 'could grow for its owner'.

The 'Haller' consists of a 19-millimetre-thick chrome-plated steel tube and a brass ball connector that has 25-millimetre-wide holes. With these components, as well as a series of drawers and metal and glass door fronts, you can make a variety of configurations; imagine the furniture equivalent of the children's toy K'nex. The system is practical for office spaces, but over the years has also crept into the homes of design enthusiasts. It made its mark in the UK in the early 1980s; architects and creatives favoured it for its versatility and clean aesthetic (Sir Norman Foster is one of its biggest fans).

In 1988, Germany awarded the 'Haller' system the status of an applied work of art, making sure it was copyright protected; in 2001, New York's Museum of Modern Art acquired examples for its permanent collection. Today, at more than half a century old, it hasn't dated a bit. Units pictured, £1,405 each (usm.com).



SYSTEM OPERATOR

The collection is named after Swiss architect Fritz Haller (pictured left), who came up with the modular steel framework when he was commissioned to create USM's new headquarters.



INSTANT MODIFICATION

The units come in 14 hues. The most popular is white, but for bold style you can't beat the green or yellow, both colours from the original palette.



ORIGIN STORY

USM's office (above) was constructed using the structural design that the brand later applied to its furniture.



BALL POINTS

Patented by USM in 1965, Haller's ball joint and pipe connections are beautiful in their simplicity and make the modular furniture reassuringly simple to build, customise and expand.



OFFICE APPROPRIATE

*The 'Haller' system was originally popular in professional environments because of its versatility (a number of configurations are pictured above). USM's designs arrived in UK homes in the 1980s. **ED***

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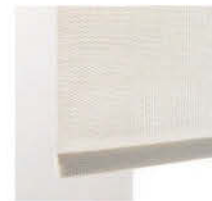
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